



# FESTIVE TRADING HOPES BOOSTED

Report by Pam Kingsley

**HOPES** are high that Oswestry is in for a bumper festive trading season after about 1,000 people attended the switching-on of the town's Christmas lights and plans were finalised for an inaugural late night shopping event.

Oswestry's new late night shopping attraction will be called the Christmas Retail Experience and will take place on December 11.

In a further move to increase footfall ahead of the crucial festive period, business leaders were last night (Wednesday) asking the town council to give free afternoon parking in its car parks in the run-up to Christmas.

During the first ever Oswestry Christmas Retail Experience, town centre shops will remain open until 8pm and among the many activities will be a Santa's Grotto, craft activities, street stalls, a Christmas trail for children, a gift wrapping service and live music.

## Commerce

Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, North Shropshire College business students and the town council have been involved with the plans.

Neil Jenkins, managing director of The Twelve Green Bottles wine company in Leg Street in Oswestry, has been mentoring business students in his role as vice chair of the chamber of commerce. He said: "This event is really important for small local businesses in Oswestry."

"The late night shopping event will give them the opportunity to shine and show off what is best about shopping in Oswestry."

Mr Jenkins thanked the college and the business students for their help in organising the event. College business lecturer Sarah Probert added: "I am sure that with the support of the retail community and Oswestry shoppers, this Christmas Retail Experience will become a regular feature."

Oswestry Mayor Peter Cherrington said he hoped the highly popular Christmas lights switch-on would signal a bumper festive season and the community would also support this year's Oswestry Christmas Live event on Friday next week and the town's Christmas parade the following day. He said: "We had about 1,000 people at the Christmas lights switch-on."

"We're hoping for more people at Christmas Live and then more again for the parade."

Meanwhile, chamber bosses have also written to Oswestry Town Council and Shropshire Council for free afternoon parking for shoppers in the town in the run-up to Christmas.

The chamber is asking that car parking be free from 2pm each day from December 14 to Christmas Eve.

The town council, which manages Central, Smithfield and the Horsemarket car parks, was due to meet last night to discuss the request.

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## Bulgarian dancers give shoppers a cultural treat



Bulgarian dancers entertained shoppers on Bailey Street in Oswestry on Saturday. Photo: Peter Shah.

OSWESTRY town centre came alive with the colour, energy and excitement of Bulgarian folk dance at the weekend.

The colourful performance was staged after the town's Bulgarian Folklore Club welcomed three traditional dance groups from London for a special street performance on Saturday.

Shoppers heading to the town's open air and indoor markets on the Bailey Head were greeted with the dancers as they performed a variety of dances, dressed in traditional Bulgarian folk outfits.

The Oswestry club is run by master choreographer and director Margarita Mihaylova and musician Zhivko Videv.

The club was joined by three Bulgarian dance groups from London – Vesselyaci, Do-

brogea and Kitka – for the outdoor display, which took place in Bailey Street from 11am.

The Bulgarian folk dance event was staged with the co-operation of Oswestry Town Council Markets.

Bulgarian Folklore Club holds regular sessions at Oswestry Methodist Church Hall in Castle Street, and has been running for several years.

But Saturday's event was the first time the club had put on an outdoor demonstration in the middle of the town.

And the traditional folk dancing is not the only Bulgarian event to be taking place in the town this month.

The Bulgarian Art Club has launched an exhibition at the town's Visitor Information

Centre in Church Terrace, next to St Oswald's Parish Church.

The art exhibition is taking place in two parts.

Until November 28 the display will include semi abstract paintings and mixed media ceramics and textiles.

Then from December 1 to January 2, the displays will be changed to show off items brought in from Bulgaria.

The items include wool rugs, ceramic pottery and paintings in oils by a consortium of Bulgarian artists.

Admission to the art club's exhibition is free.

The Visitor Information Centre is open from Monday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

## FINANCE

### Councillors make appeal to keep town bank open

AN appeal has been made to the HSBC bank for a stay of execution over the closure of a town's branch.

Llanfyllin Town Council wants the banking giant to postpone closure for a couple of months, in an effort to get more people to use it.

The town would be left with no bank if HSBC closes its doors in February.

At a town council meeting last week, councillors said they were "shocked" and "disappointed" by the move.

Clerk Jonathan Bellingham said the council would do whatever it could to fight the closure.

He said: "It might be we could persuade HSBC to open two or three days a week."

"We are writing to the regional director calling for a meeting to discuss the closure."

"Councillors will also be appealing to the HSBC to postpone closure for perhaps two months during which time they would urge more people to use the bank."

He said HSBC had also announced that its cash point would close.

HSBC said it had made the decision to close the Llanfyllin branch as well as the branch in Llanfair Caereinion because they have become financially unviable with more and more people using internet banking. Staff will be transferred to other branches.

The bank says it will improve internet and mobile facilities to help its customers.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Switch-on to mark start of season

WELSHPOOL'S festive season will be formally kicked off when the town's Christmas lights are lit up on Friday next week.

The lights will be switched on at Welshpool Town Hall by the town's Victory Queen Sara Smith. The festivities will begin at 6.30pm with the judging of a fancy dress competition at the Tourist Information Centre. A procession will then leave the centre makes its way to the town hall for the lights switch-on at 7pm.

The festive fun continues the following day when Welshpool Winter Festival takes place from 10am to 4pm.

## INSIDE

### Apprenticeships talk for students



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# More police are trained to use speeding equipment

Report by Pam Kingsley

OSWESTRY police are training up more officers to use speed detection equipment following a rise in reports of speeding around the town.

Oswestry's police team sent five officers on a training course yesterday (Wednesday) to learn to use hand held laser and radar speed detection equipment.

Currently up to four officers regularly use the equipment based at Oswestry Police Station, mostly those based in the rural parts of the patch.

Community Support Office Andy Neeves from Oswestry Police said: "We're going to use the training to advise motorists to slow down to start off with, and then after that we'll be issuing tickets."

"We do an advisory to start with - we'll get letters sent out."

"We'll be targeting the areas around schools particularly."

"We do get complaints in the mornings, most of it about parking, but parents complaining about the speed of vehicles around schools as well."

"If we can reduce the speed we're reducing the risk of injury to parents and children."

"With the amount of people around and with the cold weather coming we have to worry about the slipperiness of the pavements and people falling into the roads, and the stopping distances of the cars."

CSO Neeves said the speeding problem has been building over the past few weeks, with the officers having booked their places on the training course back in July.

He said: "Once we've got the training there are still laws governing where we can use the equipment."

"We can use them in any street if we're just gaining information, but we're governed by guidelines to how far we are from speed limit signs for using it as a prosecution method. We think it should reduce the problem, but also if drivers are flaunting the law by speedings they often have something else to hide as well."

North Wales Police has also noticed an increase in speeding drivers across the region and has launched a Community Speed Watch project to try to tackle the issue.

Sergeant John Roberts from GoSafe said the project aims to educate drivers about the dangers of speeding.

## Housing development brings new play area



Developer Matt Norris joins Tyler Scott at the brand new play area in Llanymynech

YOUNGSTERS on the Shropshire border have something to celebrate after a new play area was opened in a newly-built housing estate.

The play area was opened in Heritage Way, Llanymynech.

Councillor Dilys Gaskill, chair of Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council, said she was delighted that the playground has been opened in the village and added that local people had been waiting for it for a long time.

She said: "It's the culmination of the development of the Heritage Way area."

"Some of the money has come from the developers under a section 106 agreement and had to be used in the local area."

"The rest of the money has come from the parish council."

"We thought something for the little children would be a good addition to the area."

"The new play area is within walking distance of the houses."

"It's really nice to see the new play area open after we've been waiting for such a long time."

The equipment in the play area was chosen by local people, who were invited to

take part in a consultation earlier in the year and look at manufacturers' catalogues of equipment to choose what they thought their children would most enjoy playing with.

Mrs Gaskill said there is still some money left from the developers and that the parish council already has plans for that.

"We're hoping to use the rest of the money to upgrade the skate park and playing fields in Llanymynech," she said.

"So some of the money has gone to the younger children and the rest will go towards something for the older children."

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## Foodbank in town hands out supplies

A **FOODBANK** has handed out nearly 600 parcels of food to more than 200 households in the past year.

And the Oswestry & Borders Foodbank has received 18,000kg of donated food and toiletries from kind hearted local people.

The foodbank, which opened in 2011, is run by a team of volunteers in Oswestry and Ellesmere, led by Phil Simpson. He said: "We're a very peculiar organisation in that we'd rather not exist. People's increasing reliance on food banks within the UK tells its own story really."

"Many users of the service may only need to use us as an emergency measure, whereas others find themselves reliant on us because they find themselves in a poverty trap and are unable to free themselves from its constraints. We are waiting to see what effect any actions by the new government will have. With £12 billion of cuts announced in their manifesto it may well be that the need will increase in the coming months and our current stock levels will be needed."

"We are particularly grateful to all our donors – the people who regularly put items in a collecting box in their church or workplace, at Tesco in Ellesmere or Sainsbury's in Oswestry, and also the one-off donations such as schools and churches at harvest time."

## Church looking for repair funds

A **CHURCH** near Oswestry will be using its annual pre-Christmas social event to launch a fundraising appeal to bring in £50,000 for urgent repairs.

St Mary's Church in Knockin needs repairs to the stonework and tower, with work also needed to the guttering and drainage, electrics and heating system, asbestos needing to be removed, and improvements needed to the decoration and facilities.

The work on the outside of the church will cost more than £50,000 and the church will launch an appeal tomorrow (Friday) to try to bring in the funds. A social event will be held at 7pm at Carneal, Kinnerley Road, Knockin, with food and drink. During the evening the vicar, Rev Helen Morby, will talk about the work that needs to be done. Admission is by ticket, costing £7, which is available from the Knockin Shop or on the door.

# Future management of markets under scrutiny

Report by Sue Austin

**THE running of Oswestry's award-winning markets could be handed over to outside management to safeguard their future, it has been revealed.**

Profits from the markets have tumbled from almost £19,000 in 2011/12 to just over £5,000 in the last financial year, although the figure is expected to rise this year.

And the future of the town's farmers' market, which is run every last Friday of the month, is in question after it emerged it was running at a loss.

The future management of the markets and the fate of the farmers' market were due to be among a number of issues discussed by members of Oswestry Town Council's markets and car parks committee last night. (Wednesday)

Councillors were asked to consider whether Oswestry still wants to be a market town and whether the market is in the right part of the town.

The town council has been responsible for both the indoor and outdoor markets for decades and earlier this year won an award for best speciality market for its annual Christmas Live event.

A report to the committee sets out the financial performance of the retail markets which are held on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The detailed report from finance officer Roger Dyke includes the cost of administrative officers' time, which he calculates as £20,000 a year.

His report shows that profits from running the market have slumped from £18,828 in 2011/12 to £5,135 in the last financial year.

But the current year has already seen better fortunes.

Up to September a profit of £7,780 is evident with rentals expected to be approximately the same as 2014/15 levels.

Individual markets are experiencing different fortunes. Powis Hall indoor market has a waiting list of people wanting to rent stalls and the Saturday outdoor market has increased the number of traders it attracts.

When individual markets are looked at, two show small losses – the outdoor Friday market of £24 a week and the monthly farmers' market at £17 a week.

On average in 2015 eight traders attended the monthly farmers markets compared to 12 last year.

## Crowds feel blessed to meet Brian



Hundreds turned out to get a signed copy of actor Brian Blessed's new book

ACTOR and film star Brian Blessed drew a big crowd when he visited a book shop in Oswestry to sign copies of his new autobiography.

The 79-year-old visited Booka, in Church Street, Oswestry, on Wednesday last week to promote his new book, *Absolute Pandemonium: The Autobiography*.

The book takes readers on a riotous journey from his childhood, growing up as the son of a miner in Goldthorpe, to finding fame in Z-Cars.

The Yorkshire-born actor falls for Katharine Hepburn on the set of

The Trojan Women and wins round George Lucas to get the role of Boss Nass on Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace.

Along the way he takes secret revenge on headmistress Mrs Jarman, punches Harold Pinter, loves and hates Peter O'Toole, woos his wife Hildegard Neil and braves the shocking death toll on cosy TV drama *My Family and Other Animals*.

Tim Morris, who owns Booka along with his wife Carrie, said: "He was signing books for an hour and a half at around lunchtime."

"We do a lot of work with MacMillan who published his book."

"People were queuing right down the street."

"It's not every day that happens. There were hundreds of people who turned up."

He said the actor had been a 'larger than life' character and happily answered questions and posed for photos with members of the public.

Mr Morris added: "He was full of life. He had time for everyone." The book is priced at £20. Signed copies are available at the shop.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Councillors reject plan for housing

PLANS to build houses on the site of a former shop have been thrown out by planning bosses.

The controversial plan had been to put four homes on the former Oswalds Stores, Oswald's Well Lane, Oswestry, and had been recommended for approval by planning officers.

But members of Shropshire Council's north planning committee refused permission at their meeting on Tuesday, saying it would cause issues for drivers and pedestrians as well as being overdevelopment of the corner plot.

Councillors agreed that something needed to be done to improve the site, which has been the subject of numerous planning applications and planning appeals in recent years, but said the plan in front of them would be too much for the location.

### Work to promote sport recognised

A **TENNIS** coach who set up a community games event has been recognised for services to Shropshire sport at a House of Lords reception.

Clive Knight, a coach at Oswestry Team Tennis, joined household names from the world of sport yesterday (Wednesday) at the reception.

He was recognised as a community champion by Barclays Spaces for Sports and the Football Foundation for his services to sport in the town.

Mr Knight's primary role at Oswestry Team Tennis is as a coach, a position he has held since the club's inception in 2006.

He has also organised the annual Oswestry Community Games, which aims to get people interested in sport.

### Purse stolen from shopping trolley

A **THIEF** stole a purse from a woman's shopping trolley while she was helping an elderly couple.

The purse was taken from the victim's handbag at about 1pm on Tuesday in Aldi, Beatrice Street, Oswestry.

West Mercia Police said the bag had been in the trolley while the shopper was getting items for a couple in the store. A woman with a dark complexion, possibly Eastern European, was seen in the vicinity of the trolley and, at one point, approached the shopper.

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# Hospital sister changed notes of death fall boy

Report by Lucy Todman

**A HOSPITAL sister changed the medical notes of a teenage boy who died after a fall, an inquest heard.**

Charlie Davies, who suffered from Duchenne muscular dystrophy, fell while getting undressed in his bedroom.

The 15-year-old suffered a fractured femur which, in turn, led to him developing a condition which ultimately led to his death. Coroner John Ellery heard that a doctor missed the fracture while a nurse altered Charlie's notes to hide that a student nurse had failed to inform her that his condition was deteriorating.

## Homes plan withdrawal is welcomed

CONTRVERSIAL plans to build houses which residents had claimed look like "an industrial building" have been withdrawn.

The plans for the new homes on Salop Road, Oswestry, received 10 objections from residents, with the town council adding its weight to their voices and asking for the development to be referred to the planning committee.

The site at the junction of Salop Road and Stewart Road was previously occupied by a stonemasons business. However, it became empty when the business relocated.

Planning permission was granted in 2010 and work began on site in October 2013 with the demolition of the old workshop.

But objections meant that construction work was put on hold. Revised plans were submitted, but were criticised heavily.

Resident Alison Talbot said: "My first impression, along with everyone I have shown the pictures to, thinks this new build looks like an industrial unit and would look more at home on Maesbury Road Industrial Estate."

"I do agree the site needs developing but more thought is required to the application for residents, neighbours and Oswestry itself."

Now the plans have been withdrawn, with the applicants expected to submit entirely new plans next year.

Oswestry's mayor Councillor Peter Cherrington welcomed the news, saying that the homes as designed on the plan would have been out of keeping with the area.

Dr Emily Ward told the court she had failed to spot that he had fractured his femur as had her colleague Dr Furrqh Shabbir until the following day.

Meanwhile Charlie's concerned family had already taken him to Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital. By this stage he had already developed fat embolism syndrome, which led to his lungs becoming congested and heart failing. Professor Archie Malcolm said he believed Charlie's death was unavoidable. While in hospital the court heard Charlie's pulse, heart rate and oxygen saturation levels were monitored.

These were taken by a student nurse. But despite Charlie's oxygen saturation level falling to a dangerously low 87 per cent no alarm was raised.

His saturation level then fell further to 78 per cent and action was taken to stabilise him. Sister Sheena Hughes said she had been aware that Charlie was on the ward but had not been made aware that his levels had initially fallen. It was only when his condition deteriorated further that he was transferred to the Royal Stoke Hospital where he died the following day.

Four days later Sister Hughes changed the notes to read that his oxygen level was recorded at 97 per cent rather than at 87 per cent. She said she did this because she panicked and was under a great deal of stress. Mr Ellery recorded a conclusion of accidental death. He said: "The alteration occurred four days after Charlie's death. It cannot be said to have caused or contributed to his death save to highlight the importance that the reading of 87 per cent being acted upon."

Bosses at the orthopaedic hospital said although the inquest found Charlie's death could not be avoided, changes had been made at the hospital. They added disciplinary action had been taken and a referral made to the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

## Tractor event pulls in cash



Hundreds of people attended the tractor pull, bringing in a record total for charity

A CHARITY tractor pull in Shropshire in October raised a massive £16,000, double the amount raised last year.

The tractor pull at Hanley Hall, Ruyton XI Towns - the home of David Morris - attracted competitors and spectators from across Shropshire, Wales and beyond.

Organisers Gary and Maureen Penton and Mark and Lynne Jones decided to donate £6,000 to the Hope House Children's Hospice and £6,000 to the Severn Hospice.

Mr Penton said: "The event and the money raised exceeded all our expectations and people have been asking us to do it all again next year."

"We were so successful that we have been able to retain a further £4,000 to ensure

that we can organise an even bigger event next year."

"We are very grateful to Mr David R Morris of Hanley Hall, for letting us have the land, to our main sponsors N&S Scaffolding and Llansilin Tractors and all the other businesses who helped make our fourth tractor pull such a great success."

More than 500 people and 35 tractors descended on Hanley Hall to see the tractor pull action.

Mr Penton added: "We had a lot of tractors enter the competition this year and we were very fortunate with the weather. We had trade stalls and attractions for children, as well as a bar and a band so there really was something for everyone this year."

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# Council leader apologises for code of conduct breach

Report by Dominic Robertson

**SHROPSHIRE Council Leader Keith Barrow has apologised after being found to have breached the authority's code of conduct.**

Councillor Keith Barrow, who represents Oswestry South on the unitary authority, will now undergo code of conduct training after a standards sub-committee ruled that he failed to formally disclose a conflict of interest at meetings of the board of Shropshire Council company, ip&e.

The conflict related to Councillor Barrow's failure to disclose a personal and business relationship with a director of the company which was appointed as accountants and auditors of ip&e. He has resigned from his position as a director of ip&e and the authority will now look to appoint a chairman independent of the council.

## School trip to France is postponed

A SCHOOL has postponed its trip to France amid ongoing security threats in the country.

St Martins School, in St Martins, near Oswestry, has decided to put off its trip across the Channel after taking a parent vote on the situation.

Pupils in years eight and nine had been looking forward to a languages trip to France and were set to leave on Tuesday.

But Sue Lovey, the school's headteacher, said the trip had been postponed.

She said: "We are very lucky that our travel company, NST has agreed to postpone it. I am very pleased."

"We can't hang around when you have parents and children to think about so we spoke to NST and thankfully they agreed to postpone it."

"I think we are going to wait until outside the three month state of emergency and then have another look."

"We had a parent's meeting and went through the whole process that we have been going through in detail. Then we had a vote and it was a unanimous vote to postpone it."

Mrs Lovey said that while the group wasn't actually going to Paris, there were trips to Disneyland Paris as well as various places along the coast.

But she said that long delays in the Channel tunnel along with risks elsewhere in the country could have turned it into an "absolute nightmare".

## Students told of campaign



Jamie Pugh with Marches School pupils Rohan Hodson, Erik Spasov, Toby Cox, Hannah Lloyd and Dannie Purslow

STUDENTS in Oswestry have been hearing about the importance of apprenticeships after the Ladder for Shropshire continued its campaign to reach out to schools.

The campaign to deliver a huge boost to apprenticeships in the county saw representatives head for Marches School to deliver an address to sixth form students.

The youngsters heard that more than 108 new roles have so far been created by businesses in a variety of sectors from across Shropshire.

They were also given advice on how to apply for apprenticeships, and to demonstrate the breadth of roles that are available.

So far, the Ladder has seen positions made available in the tourism, manufac-

turing, hospitality, construction and care sectors, among many others.

Ask Mobile Phones and Roofrite Ltd are among the most recent businesses to sign up to the campaign. Jamie Pugh, marketing and development officer for the Ladder for Shropshire, said: "It's vital that we keep reiterating the message to students that apprenticeships are a terrific way to launch yourself onto the career ladder."

"A large part of these school and college presentations has not only been to promote apprenticeships in general, but also to show pupils how to apply for vacancies, and what it is employers are looking for from candidates when it comes to applying."

To contact the Ladder call 0800 999 8441 or 0330 999 8441 from a mobile.

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## BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

The future of Oswestry's Tourist Information Centre is in the balance after visitor numbers plummeted at the Mile End facility but the big question is where did all the visitors suddenly go.

The Mile End Tourist Information Centre has always been extremely busy with visitors from all over the world dropping in to find out what the Oswestry area has to offer. So what has caused the problem that has put its future in so much doubt with Shropshire Council considering closure next year?

The council has now started a public consultation over a closure decision with the option being to transfer enquiries to Oswestry Borderland Tourism in the town's Heritage Centre.

Mile End Services was once recognised as one of the busiest in the country and the TIC always did well on the back of visitors to the petrol station, Little Chef, Burger King and Travel Lodge. But it would appear the TIC may become the first victim following the arrival of KFC, Starbucks and Premier Inn on the other side of the busy junction.

It's really important that the people of Oswestry take part in the consultation and let the authority know just how important the TIC is to the town. The consultation runs until December 29.

Oswestry Mayor Peter Cherrington got a bit more than he had bargained for when he helped Rainbow's Bungle switch on the town's Christmas lights last week.

It was quite a sight seeing the Mayor posing as a teapot for the singing of 'I'm a Little Teapot' in front of the big gathering and no doubt the councillor will be taking quite a bit of stick from colleagues and family following his star performance. Posing as a teapot was not in the script when Peter signed up to be the Mayor but he seemed to be enjoying himself.

If 10 years ago someone had told me that Oswestry would have a foodbank which would hand out 600 food parcels in a year to more than 200 households I would not have believed them.

But that is the exact case at the moment and there's a real likelihood that things are going to get worse.

Run by volunteers the foodbank has become a necessity and a sad sign of the times we are living in.

Many users of the service only need it as an emergency measure, but others become reliant after finding themselves in a poverty trap.

It's great that so many organisations are supporting Oswestry's foodbank with donated goods because I have a pretty strong feeling that demand is going to grow.



The murder of Machynlleth girl April Jones by Mark Bridger shocked the nation



The people of Machynlleth found themselves at the centre of huge media interest after the tragedy



Councillor Mike Williams says the death of April Jones affected the town deeply

# Community is working hard to get over horror

## SUE AUSTIN travels to the town of Machynlleth to find out how it is moving on after a terrible tragedy

It was the last physical, painful reminder of the horror that engulfed the Mid Walestown of Machynlleth.

Twelve months ago the home of child murderer Mark Bridger was finally demolished.

The white cottage where he killed five-year-old April Jones after he abducted her and disposed of her body was smashed to the ground.

Her parents bravely stood and watched as the house was torn down, saying that it would allow April's spirit to be free.

While they still live each day with their heartbreak, slowly and surely the community is beginning to look forward to the future.

Bridger was given a whole-life term for abducting and killing the schoolgirl from Machynlleth in October 2012.

Today the land on which is cottage stood in Ceinws, four miles from the town, bears no sign of the house.

Instead the saplings planted on the ground are growing, their autumn colour leaves beginning to drop onto the grass beneath.

Two large slate boulders block the old entranceway but the grass flattened to a path shows that local people are beginning to walk through the patch of land.

Only the old hedge remains.

In Ceinws, as in Machynlleth itself, people don't want to be reminded of the murder that plunged the area into the national spotlight.

They refuse to be drawn about how the area still bears the stigma as 'the place where the little girl was murdered' and instead want to look to the future.



Trees have been planted where Mark Bridger's house used to stand

They are protective of April's family and don't want to talk to the media.

Natalie Jones, owner of the Leopard Lounge hair and beauty salon in the town says: "Of course we remember and it will never go away. But Machynlleth is a wonderful place and we don't want to be known purely as somewhere where something awful happened. There are a lot of good things happening in Machynlleth."

One of the current projects is a scheme to improve the town's one and only playground.

Equipment at 'The Plas' is dated and in need of replacing.

Now a group of parents have launched Future Play Machynlleth to raise the money needed.

Fundraising events include a hugely successful Halloween event. One of those behind the project is Danielle

Armstrong. One of her aims is to make sure the playground is accessible to everyone.

Her own seven-year-old son has mobility problems and she says he is unable to use the playground even though it is close to their house.

She says: "If we can ensure that the playground is accessible for people with all kinds of abilities then it can go on an 'approved list' of playgrounds."

"People with children with disabilities will know that if the visit Machynlleth they can use the playground."

The playground project represents the feeling of the community, a strong community which came together in the hunt for April Jones and has remained as strong.

As preparations get under way to celebrate Christmas many parents will have April and her family on their

mind. But outwardly the town will look forward, rather than back.

Councillor Michael Williams admits that his thoughts will be with the family of April Jones over the Christmas period.

The five-year-old was abducted while playing outside her house on the Bryn y Gog estate.

Councillor Williams lives on the same estate and will never forget the night the popular little girl was taken.

He, like hundreds more, spent endless hours joining in the fruitless search for her. Now, three years on, he says the people of Machynlleth must be allowed to look forward and, while never forgetting April, be able to celebrate Christmas with their own loved ones.

And he says the family must also be allowed to move forward.

"We will very much be remembering April but it is important that we move forward and join in the celebrations that are being planned in the town," he said.

"As time goes on of course we never forget and Christmas is a very poignant time and will be for April's family and all those who know them."

Councillor Williams, who has lived in the market town all his life, said Machynlleth had a remarkable community spirit, one that had kept people going through the dark days of the hunt for April and the devastation when the full horror of what had happened was realised.

"We are as one together, people who were born here and people who have moved into the area," he said. "It is a very special community."

Councillor Williams said he was pleased that all signs of the house in which April's killer Mark Bridger lived, were now gone.

"I have not been up there since the house was demolished," he said.

"It was quite right that the house was removed from the face of the earth. It was a dark cloud that was hanging over all the people of Machynlleth."

## WORKING FOR YOU



As the economy continues to recover, there has been further good news for Shropshire's employees and employers. The latest figures show yet another drop in the number of unemployed people nationwide. The claimant count dropped by 140,559 to 759,306. We can take great pride in the progress we have made in North Shropshire where the claimant count stands at 709,14 per cent of the economically active population down from 3.9 per cent in 2010. There are now 31.21 million people in work. Employment has increased by 419,000 over the last year. Unemployment is down 210,000 compared to 2014. These are record breaking figures. Nationally there are nearly 2.5 million more private sector jobs and there are over 900,000 more businesses. There have been over 2.3 million new apprenticeships since 2010. North Shropshire has a great number of excellent businesses both small and large. The Spending Review delivered by the Chancellor details how this Government is repairing our economy and ensuring the UK is well placed to trade with our neighbours and open up new markets around the world. The latest edition of the OECD Economic Outlook forecasts that we will be the joint fastest growing major advanced economy this year. These results have not been achieved overnight but are instead a result of efforts by large and small businesses across the country. Private sector growth has been vital in the economic recovery. More than two million new private sector jobs were created in the last Parliament but there is further to go.

The deficit is down by more than half but there is still a long way to go to build a budget surplus by 2019/2020. We are still borrowing £130,000 per minute. We must continue reducing government spending as a percentage of GDP. Growth should be driven by business, investment and exports, not by government, for our children and grandchildren's sake.

We must not be complacent as there is still much more we can do. Every one of the 1.75 million people unemployed is a personal tragedy for that individual and their family. The Government will use the Spending Review to set in place measures such as an apprenticeship levy so we can deliver three million apprenticeships.

There is always more to be done and I know that the entrepreneurial spirit in North Shropshire will help the local economy continue to grow and achieve the ambition of full employment which is an absolute for the Government and an aim I support wholeheartedly.

Owen Paterson  
North Shropshire MP

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## Letters

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# Open borders root cause of problems

THE Greens never fail to amuse me, even more so when one of their members writes to the Shropshire Star, stating the following regarding Owen Paterson: "He fails to grasp that an understanding of ecology is fundamental to the sustainability of farming and rural livelihoods, and the key element of this sustainability are the farming families who manage these complex ecologies across the world".

I am sure Owen Paterson does have an understanding of plants and animals in relation to the environment, but unfortunately, like most politicians here and in Europe, they are lobbied by corporations

with interests in this subject, eg the agro/chemicals industry. Hence the popularity of GM and some pesticides that can have a detrimental effect on bees, and most of us are aware of the importance of these to pollinate plants to yield fruit and vegetables.

Regarding sustainability of farming and rural livelihoods here and around the world, the Ecologist published a paper in the early 1970s called Blue Print for Survival and for the UK to be sustainable, the population must not exceed 53 million people. At today's 64 million, there is no way we can become self-sufficient in food. The Greens and the Conservatives need to look at the

root causes of demand for housing in this country and what has caused the demand.

The facts are that uncontrolled immigration and open borders have increased demand. If we build millions of extra homes there will be less land to grow food on and we will become less sustainable. I have heard of a charity, Self Help Africa which helps families in rural Africa escape hunger and poverty by low cost sustainable solutions. Seems sensible for people to help themselves, rather than relying on others to do it for them.

**MARK NORWOOD**  
 Whittington

# I'm unable to match level of optimism on UK democracy

JACK Gillum of Knighton (Letters, Oswestry and Border Chronicle, November 12) displays an optimism regarding democracy in this country which I am unable to match, when he tells us that the British democratic system is held under high esteem across the world.

Substitute 'was held' for 'is held' Jack and you would be right.

You forget that 43 years ago we joined the Common Market which, by stealth and deceit was cynically and systematically transformed into a dual dictatorship run by Germany and France.

We have today a tiny fraction of the democracy we enjoyed pre 1973 because the EU does not do democracy, it does control and regulation.

Its own Parliament cannot make law, EU law is made behind closed doors by a committee of 28, one from each member state and a flawed system of QMV (Qualified Majority Voting) ensures that European member countries out vote Anglo-Saxon member countries every single time.

The Sunday Telegraph's investigation in 2009 confirmed that the EU was staggeringly expensive, undemocratic, biased against Britain, riddled with fraud and totally lacking in any fiscal restraints - like accounts.

Its leaders have immunity from prosecution. Do you wonder why if it is so 'democratic'?

**BOB WYDELL**  
 Oswestry

# Make decision over our NHS

REGARDING the accident and emergency shambles, all those involved in this decision (if it can so be called that) should either make their minds up within a reasonable time (say one month) or resign and make way for those who can.

While they waver endlessly, we remain without badly needed urgent care centres and haemorrhage money operating two A&E departments, overloaded with patients who should not have to have travelled there. The women and children's unit is newly built, at great expense, in the right place, at Telford. Apart from any other factors, there is no room on the Telford site for that and for A&E.

Shrewsbury Hospital is the surgical hospital for Shropshire. If I break my hip in north Shropshire (where I live) or, worse in Mid Wales, am I to suffer a journey of an hour or so to Telford, only to be sent back again to Shrewsbury for my operation?

Utter nonsense and agony for the patient. I know Telford would prefer its own A&E; we can't afford two and Telford residents are nearer in time to Shrewsbury, via an excellent road, than north Shropshire is by the inadequate A5. They are also much nearer to the Wolverhampton and Birmingham hospitals.

**HUGH BATTERSBY**  
 Ellesmere

## Mining cottages removed in redevelopment



In November 1980 work started on demolishing the terraced mining cottages which had overlooked Chirk Green since the beginning of the century. The Coronation Street-type cottages had been under a clearance order by Glyndwr District Council for over a year and the last family moved to a new house within Chirk only a few months previously.

## Healthy walk is much better than the school run

A RECENT poll has revealed that children hugely value walking to school for the social time with friends and family, just like their parents and grandparents did.

But less than half of children now get this opportunity.

Walking is a free and a healthy option for children yet walking rates continue to decline.

It's not too late to turn things around if we act now. Walking to school can help children and parents build activity into their daily lives and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

We need to invest in the walk to school now, before the inactive children of today become the unhealthy adults of the future.

I have pledged my support to Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking and I'm urging the Prime Minister David Cameron to prioritise walking in the upcoming spending review.

I would encourage others to do the same through the Living Streets website.

**MARTIN PRICE**  
 Shrewsbury

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Think about other polluters

THE current popular attack on diesel car pollution fails to highlight much larger users - the ships, trains, trucks and vans supplying our daily necessities, and ships, trains and bus services ferrying us to and from work and business and shopping and leisure activities.

No mention is made of invisible gas-burning building heating, petrol engines, and a big omission is of the aircraft filling our skies.

**J SOLLY**  
 Shrewsbury

## Not surprised to hear about high health debt

THE announcement containing grave warnings that global NHS debt has reached epidemic proportions will be no surprise to those of us in Shropshire and Mid Wales, who have witnessed numerous political fiascos. This has culminated in bosses at Future Fit failing to provide leadership and postponing recommendations about future A&E provision.

Reconfiguration of health provision in large urban cities has been relatively successful, but here in Shropshire the demographics of a large rural area, with an ageing population, and the dictates from the Royal Colleges inevitably make unpopular decisions inevitable.

There seems to have been no progress over the last 15 years, when I sat as a non-executive director on the then Royal Shrewsbury Hospital board. Modern medicine is rightly evidence based, cut the political posturing and someone make a decision on the way forward, and let us see the evidence at consultation level.

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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Care home tackles issues in report

BOSESSES at a care home have said issues raised following an inspection have been addressed.

Action has been taken to raise standards at Heatherdene Residential Care Home in Oswestry since it was inspected earlier this year.

The care home was found to "require improvement" by Care Quality Commission inspectors.

Heatherdene, which caters for up to 20 people, was inspected in June and inspectors found that previous concerns about poor hygiene affecting people's health had been addressed.

But they found further problems with regard to breach of regulations and that the recruitment procedure was not up to standard, which meant staff may not be suitable to work in the home on Upper Brook Street.

Rosemarie Nonan, deputy manager of Heatherdene said: "We have done everything that was required from us in the report and are waiting from them to come and reinspect."

"Everything that was asked for we have done."

## Dying tree could become artpiece

A DYING tree in a town park could be turned into a piece of art to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday next year.

The old tree in Cae Glas Park, Oswestry, is showing signs of old age, but town mayor Councillor Peter Cherrington said he hopes it can be used by a chainsaw artist to create a suitable tribute to Her Majesty. Councillor Cherrington put forward the idea of a tree tribute to the town council. The council agreed to look into the suggestion and discuss it again at the next town council meeting, in January.

# Campaign wants to see TNS in FIFA video game

Report by Pam Kingsley

**A FAN of Oswestry's Welsh champion football team is campaigning to get Welsh Premier League teams into the next FIFA computer game.**

The New Saints fan Asa Bailey has set up an online petition calling for game makers EA Sports to feature the teams in the next FIFA game.

He said: "I bought the game for my 14-year-old son Ruben because he is a big fan of football, and like any other kid he wants to play as his local football hero, but we were really disappointed to find out that Wales had been omitted from the game."

"We have a healthy Welsh football league with professional players. The league deserves a place in the game just as any other European country does."

"We're calling for EA games to include the Welsh Premier League in the FIFA 17 edition of the game."

"I have actually spoken to Welsh Premier League officials and they say they're willing to discuss the issue as well."

"My team is TNS but I watch clubs all over North Wales and love the experience of watching clubs in the Welsh pyramid."

"It would also spread the word and perhaps raise curiosity from others across the world as to what the league has to offer."

EA Sports' FIFA is the world's most successful and famous football game and currently includes association football teams from around the world, including England and Scotland, but has never included teams from the Welsh league.

The petition can be signed at [www.put-walesinthegame.com](http://www.put-walesinthegame.com)

## Merchandise deal is coup for town



Alma Pierson from Pickles & Co in Oswestry which has become a stockist of Cath Kidston merchandise

A GIFT shop in Oswestry has become one of only 100 in the country to stock Cath Kidston merchandise.

Pickles & Co gift shop and cafe, in Church Street, is the second shop in Shropshire to officially hold the goods.

They are characterised by vintage-style floral designs and pastel

colours. Tony Lowry, owner of Pickles, said it was a real coup for the town, as well as for the shop, to be chosen.

"When they appointed us as a stockist they made a point of saying what a nice town Oswestry is," he said.

"I think they're quite careful

about how they choose their suppliers, so it's a great reflection on the town and on us for them to decide to appoint us."

Cath Kidston is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The range includes bags, clothing and household items, with the bags being the top sellers.

# Farm boss tells of the challenges for industry

FARMERS are having to pay for Britain's deflation in lower prices for their products, an NFU leader said during a visit to Shropshire.

Meurig Raymond spoke at the Oswestry NFU annual meeting as he also visited farms and businesses in the area. He said the industry was still in crisis, but said that one positive from the year had been the overwhelming support of the public with shoppers more than ever looking to buy British. This year has seen desperate dairy farmers buy up milk from some supermarkets and give it away to shoppers, to show just what low prices they get for their produce.

Mr Raymond said part of the problem is that farmers are on a variety of contracts for their milk, meaning that some are making a loss while others are managing to make money.

Mr Raymond, who farms in south west Wales, said: "Prices for milk have stabilised but at a very low level."

"There are still dairy farmers that are being paid less for the milk than it costs to produce, and that is simply not sustainable. There are farmers who are being paid up to 32p a litre for their milk - but others getting just 15p."

"The Government has just announced that we are enjoying a period of deflation."

"But that is at the expense of British farmers as the cost of food is one of the main items used in calculating inflation or deflation."

He said that the NFU is now urging the English and Welsh Governments to ensure that the 'Cap' payments - benefits handed out to farmers as part of the Common Agricultural Policy - are made as soon as possible after December 1.

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## £336m deal to take over concrete firm

CONSTRUCTION materials firm Bredon Aggregates has agreed a £336 million deal that will see it take over a concrete maker with bases around Shropshire and Mid Wales.

The move will create the UK's biggest building materials group, and brings Hope Materials' portfolio of one cement works, five quarries and 152 concrete plants across the UK into Bredon's group.

In the year to June 30, Hope sold 1.6 million tonnes of cement, 4.7 million tonnes of aggregates and 2.3 million cubic metres of concrete, generating revenue of £285.6 million and underlying pre-tax earnings of £37 million.

It has operations in Llyncllys, near Oswestry, Presteigne on the Welsh border, beside Bayston Hill Quarry on the edge of Shrewsbury, Trench and Halesfield in Telford, at Four Ashes near Wolverhampton, and at Wooferton near Ludlow.

"This acquisition is well-timed, with UK construction output forecast to expand by around 15 per cent over the next four years and volumes of all our major products expected to grow strongly," said Peter Tom, executive chairman of Bredon.

## School set to host an open morning

ADCOTE School for Girls in Little Ness near Oswestry will be holding an open morning on Saturday.

As part of the open morning the school, which has a reputation for producing outstanding dance, drama and musical theatre productions, will be staging a series of workshops. Existing Junior School pupils will showcase some of the activities covered in drama and performing arts classes.

# Salon named retailer of the year at awards



**THE Chronicle's We Mean Business campaign celebrates Oswestry businesses. This week we celebrate Toni&Guy on Cross Street.**

Toni&Guy Oswestry is absolutely over the moon at winning retailer of the year at the Toni&Guy Awards in London.

The awards are the famous brand's main event of the year where all the salons around the world come together so to win is a real achievement.

The Oswestry business has worked extremely hard over the last 12 months and believes that product advice plays a huge part in creating fantastic customer service.

Beth James and Becky Jones from the salon say it is hugely important to them that their customers can replicate their creations by using the Label M range at home.

The team goes on regular training in Manchester and London as the fashion world is forever changing and it is important to offer customers the newest trends, whether that be cutting techniques, colours techniques or products.

The team also helps out at London Fashion Week.

Beth and Becky feel that at Oswestry they have managed to create a salon that is full of very creative and talented stylists and still maintain a friendly relaxed atmosphere for people to come to.



Beth James and Becky Jones from Toni&Guy in Oswestry's Cross Street

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Tea rooms shuts its doors suddenly

AN award-winning cafe has closed overnight, leaving customers who had paid deposits for festive lunches out of pocket.

The Tea Rooms in Chirk closed its doors without notice on Saturday. Its phone is now disconnected and social media pages taken down.

The town's Hand Hotel has stepped in to cushion the blow by offering to honour 30 per cent of any voucher for the Tea Rooms or deposit paid by customers.

Paul Rogers, one of the owners of the Hand Hotel said: "It is very sad and we feel for those people who have vouchers to use or have paid a deposit for a Christmas lunch or other event. To help soften the blow we are prepared to honour 30 per cent of any voucher for The Tea Rooms or 30 per cent of a deposit customers might have paid.

"Obviously we are hoping for some custom but also we feel that as part of the community we want to help people who feel let down."

### Ramblers bring their walk forward

IT has been necessary for the Ramblers Welshpool Group to bring forward by one day the next walk which will now be on Saturday.

Mel Lyons will lead an easy to moderate grade circular walk of about eight miles starting at 9.30am from Church Street car park, Welshpool. The route will include the riverside footpath to Leighton, Beacon Ring hill fort site, Offa's Dyke Path to Buttington, before returning to Welshpool along the Montgomery Canal towpath. Further information can be obtained on 01938 553834.

A short walk from Powis Castle will take place on December 13.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Workers run to help out hospice

HOPE House Children's Hospice has received more than £3,700 after 13 employees from a Welshpool company put on their running shoes.

The employees from Invertek Drives took part in the Lake Vyrnwy Half Marathon, with some of the running team beating their previous personal bests. However, for most it was the first time they'd taken part in a half-marathon.

Invertek Drives' sales and marketing director, Rhydian Welson, said: "Invertek Drives supports the local community and local charities as much as possible. 'Team Invertek' thoroughly enjoyed participating in the event, and all of the runners have been overwhelmed by the high level of sponsorship received."

### Expansion leads to unit availability

A MAJOR expansion by a company has seen a 24,684 square foot factory in Welshpool become available to rent, commercial agents say.

The unit in Henfaes Lane previously housed Newmor Group's distribution centre.

The wallcovering company has relocated across the road to be adjacent to a manufacturing unit as part of a £3 million investment which has led to 35 new jobs.

Employing a workforce of 209, the company has centralised the production of its Morland division at the 87,000 sq ft Unit 4 on Buttington Cross Enterprise Park, Welshpool.

Commercial agents Halls says Unit B, Henfaes Lane, is on offer for an annual rent of £67,880.

# Campaigner wins award for energy battle work

Report by Pam Kingsley

**A SHEEP farmer who took on the anti-wind farm lobby has been named among the winners of the Wales Green Energy awards.**

Sheep and beef farmer Mark Williams, who set up Powys Wind Farm Supporters, won the outstanding individual advocate category at the awards, announced by RenewableUK Cymru.

Mr Williams 37, farms 90 acres of land which he owns near Welshpool, and also rents some land from his parents.

He set up the group after becoming concerned at what he saw was the level of negativity and hostility in the area during the anti-pylon protests in 2011.

The judges described him as "a passionate and enthusiastic supporter of wind energy who campaigns tirelessly to promote the economic benefits of onshore wind energy in Mid Wales".

Mr Williams said he was disappointed with the recent decision of the Mid Wales wind farm inquiry to not allow development, but said he will continue to spread positive messages about renewable energy.

He said: "It's important we constantly inform people about the benefits and arguments about other energy sources. We're certainly not going to disappear. We'll keep being driven for as long as it takes."

"We've brought that balance and there's more sensible discussion in the area about renewable energy now."



Mark Williams receives the award for outstanding advocate at the Green Energy Awards in Cardiff

### Scheme to help victims established

OFFENDERS in Mid Wales are being given the opportunity to meet their victims and make amends.

Dyfed-Powys Police said the Wales Community Rehabilitation Company, which provides probation services for medium to low risk offenders, has launched a scheme across the region which allows offenders to be held to account for the distress or damage they have caused by facing their victims. Commissioned by the force's Police and Crime Commissioner Christopher Salmon, the restorative justice scheme aims to bring together people harmed by crime or conflict with those responsible for the harm in a controlled environment.

The scheme gives victims the chance to tell offenders the real impact of their crime, get answers to their questions and an apology.

It also holds offenders to account for what they have done and helps them understand the real impact and take responsibility. Ella Rabaioiti, head of the force's local delivery unit, said: "Restorative Justice is a powerful way to get offenders to understand the effect their actions can have on their victims."

### Art group to hold its annual meeting

AN arts group based in Mid Wales is to hold its annual meeting next month.

Mid Wales Arts will hold the meeting on December 9 at the Art Centre, Caersws, at 6pm. Members and those interested in the work of MWA are invited to attend.

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# College offering more apprenticeship training



North Shropshire College's apprenticeship team is based at The Cannery at the Walford campus

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### Advertising Feature

working out of a new centre at the Walford Campus of the College. The Cannery is a fantastic building that was converted recently.

It provides the team with a base for administrative work. They are also able to use the centre to hold specialist sessions for maths and English as well as legislative training. The Cannery is fully equipped with interactive white board, computers, and offices for discreet one to one meetings with learners.

Lucy Bowen, Apprenticeships Manager commented: "We are really pleased to have the whole team under one roof at The Cannery. It is essential for us to meet regularly, share best practise, have training sessions and focus on meeting our strategic priorities." There is an Apprenticeships Open Evening taking place on Monday from 4pm to 8pm at both the Oswestry and the Walford Campus. If anyone is interested in starting an apprenticeship or if you are an employer and would like to find out more about taking on an apprentice, come along and find out more.

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# Music technology course to give budding DJs a boost

**BUDDING DJs, sound engineers and producers will be able to give their ambitions a boost next year with the launch of a new music technology course in Oswestry.**

North Shropshire College is working with The Centre, Oak Street, to start the course in September. The Centre has a well-equipped recording studio which is hired out to the public and managed by local community interest company, Fusion Arts Oswestry.

Shropshire Council and Fusion Arts Oswestry are collaborating with the college

**Report by Pam Kingsley**

to provide the new BTEC diploma in music technology. Jay Moore, founder of Fusion Arts Oswestry, already teaches at local schools in the Oswestry area.

Richard Adam, a founding member of Fusion Arts Oswestry, said: "Collaborating with the college is an amazing opportunity; the facilities here at The Centre are state of the art and being constantly updated. We are looking for anyone who has a passion for music or sound engineering to join this course."

The new course will be available as both a Level 2 and Level 3 qualification.

There will be opportunities for trips and work placements, and the course also serves as a progression route to university, studying sound engineering or other music related higher education qualifications.

Councillor Vince Hunt, chairman of The Centre's management committee, said: "I am pleased to have been able to help organise this project as it delivers on all levels."

"It is an example of how three separate organisations can work together to deliver positive outcomes for young people whilst all benefiting."

"Working like this has to be the future way to get things done," the councillor added.



Member of Fusion Arts Oswestry, Richard Adam, at the mixing desk

## Scheme gives insight into life of missionaries

CHURCH members from across Shropshire have been experiencing what life is like for missionaries.

The Global Village+ experience has been run by Operation Mobilisation at its UK headquarters in Weston Rhyn, near Oswestry.

The programme has been giving people the opportunity to see first hand what sorts of challenges missionaries can face.

David Svensson, who set up the project in Europe, said: "People often have the wrong picture of who a missionary is and what they do."

"I started the experience after I took a group to Ukraine for a week."

"Many were teenagers but one said to me 'you guys are ruining my holidays'. He didn't want to go. During the week we did practical things and visited orphanages and tried the food. On the way back this same teen said 'this has been the best week of my life'."

"He had actually experienced something. He didn't just hear it on a screen, he went into this world he could smell and taste and touch and feel. I thought I wish I could get more people to do it."

More than 160 people visited Global Village+ at Weston Rhyn, and the event has been so successful that UK organiser, Ivan Neira, said it will be repeated next year.

"It's a challenge for us because this has been the UK pilot, but it's been incredible," he said.

"We have a group of young people come through and we had one say they were afraid of talking to older people, and now they feel they can. Or a young lady seeing the need of people on the streets and realising that it happens across the street from them."

## Work progresses on redevelopment

WORK is progressing well on the £5.9 million redevelopment of a care home, with the first guests expected to be welcomed in February.

The first phase of building work at Chirk Court care home in Chirk is to be completed in January. The complete refurbishment of the original building has cost £900,000, and the residents have been part of the consultation as the £5m construction of four new 'households' for a further 56 residents has progressed.

"We're delighted that our contractors Anwyl construction are set to complete the first phase of the new facility by the end of January 2016 allowing us to then work on the internal fit out ready to welcome new residents early February 2016," said Kevin Hughes, senior care manager with Clwyd Allyn Housing Association.

"We are working closely with the various statutory authorities as well as interior designers who specialise in creating comfortable safe surroundings designed to meet the care needs of residents with dementia in the four new 'households', and we are very pleased to see the building taking shape."

"We are also very pleased that we have managed to appoint over 20 high quality members of staff in preparation for the opening of the first two households and we will appoint additional staff at the end of next spring when the remaining two households are completed."

He said the company had received a large number of enquiries from potential residents.

## Pubs help out charities

TWO pubs at the heart of their communities in North Shropshire are celebrating after raising more than £3,500 for two cancer charities within a week of each other.

The Navigation Inn in Maesbury Marsh and The Original Ball in nearby Maesbury recently held separate harvest festival auctions.

The Navigation Inn raised £1,500 for Cancer Research UK and The Original Ball brought in £2,010.50 for Pancreatic Cancer UK.

Brent Ellis, co-owner of The Navigation, said: "As always the generosity of our customers and food suppliers never fails to amaze us."

Michelle Youens, co-owner of The Original Ball, added: "What a fantastic achievement. Our thanks go out to all our customers who supported the event."

## ADVERTISEMENT

# "I WAS DESPERATE TO LIVE, NOT TO DIE"

**"I HAVE battled with Depression for years, and more recently Anxiety has joined in the fray. They ruled and ruined my life and I blamed them."**

I eventually lost hope and I lost my way. If it wasn't for my wonderful daughter I may not be here to tell my story. However, she intervened and I sought help (again). But this time I was desperate. Desperate to live, not to die, not to exist but to really live. I saw my doctor and was referred to the mental health team where I met someone with a truly open mind who saw my desperation and offered up an alternative therapy to work in conjunction with more traditional support of prescription pills and counselling. Now, before I go on, I want to state quite openly that my Counsellor and the drugs helped, a lot. My Counsellor has been amazing – truly helped me face my demons and work through them. The prescription drugs have helped me sleep, stopped the panic attacks and given me a level playing field to work on.

However the speed in which I have recovered and grown can only be the result of my Miruji journey which has been truly impressive. It took a huge effort to get myself to my appointment and quite honestly I didn't think I'd be able to get through the initial interview. In fact, I had a panic attack there and then, right in front of Alan, the owner, and I don't think either of us thought I'd get through the first session. But with his patience and my determination we settled down to talk through my issues. I was then settled into the Miruji chair, headphones in place and told to try and relax. Seriously? I thought. 15 minutes later Alan returned to the room and I was, quite frankly, stunned at how much calmer I felt. We talked more and agreed to start the therapy straight away. And I haven't regretted it one bit.

There are two parts to my Miruji therapy, and as yet I still struggle with the first. The first is the beach with broad-spectrum lighting. I am still unable to sit in peace and quiet and just 'chill'. But I am working up to it. And

I will definitely be making myself use it as the nights draw in and the days become duller. I've lived in Norway and had to deal with Seasonal Affective Disorder and the benefits of broad-spectrum lighting are well recognised there and in Alaska. It basically fools your brain into believing there's sunshine. As well as that benefit, you sit there quietly listening to recordings of waves lapping at the shore and gazing at a mural of a tropical beach – heaven.

The second part is the Miruji chair. A huge contraption with built in massage features. It gently (or not so gently) kneads your neck, shoulders back and feet. You can opt to recline or sit upright – whatever is most comfortable. And for 15 to 40 minutes you just sit and let it do its work. It works on three levels, firstly you are forced to sit and do nothing. How often do any of us do that? That in itself is healthy, just sitting, relaxing. Secondly, the tired muscles are kneaded and the knots of a weeks worth of stress are loosened and you are left feeling much more relaxed. And finally there are the recordings played through the headphones. All positive messages, supporting your mental well-being. What hit me first and deeply was the message about problems. Change the word problem to challenge and suddenly you don't feel overwhelmed with issues, there are just new challenges to be met. Sounds simple? It is. But we become entrenched in our own negative self talk and Depression takes that to a whole new level where you feel worthless or angry or even just overwhelmed. Another message is 'you are worth it' or 'you deserve it' – another powerful positive message that has transformed my thinking. There's a tape about an eagle who is teaching her fledgling to fly – try, try, try again and believe it will happen. Again, positive. Somehow these messages, spoken calmly whilst you are relaxed sink deep inside and even though when you get off the chair and head home you may sometimes wonder what was the point, later on in the week you remember a snippet of the tape that relates to a current issue and you

realise that you are healing.

I am a much more positive person now. I recognise that I could equate my life before Miruji as a hurdle race. Every problem was a hurdle that I would sometimes jump clean over or sometimes knock flat, but I always stopped and picked up the hurdle and carried it with me, so I was constantly weighed down with failures. Now,

I see the hurdle, give it my best shot and keep on running to the next one, knowing that I have learned another tactic to help me over the next.

There's a lot of sense in Miruji – common sense. It's a simple concept – we each deserve to have peace of mind and body. It's needed and often lacking in this fast-paced world we exist in.

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- JACQUELINE ROSSER

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# A good time to try out new tastes



A drop of the strong stuff will warm you up if you are out in the cold weather around Oswestry and Welshpool this New Year

**A NICE glass of whisky is a traditional way to celebrate New Year when you are out wining and dining in the Oswestry and Welshpool area.**

great way to warm yourself up if you are out and about in the area in the cold weather during New Year.

There are many well-crafted whiskies to sip and enjoy. Among them is The Ardmore's 12-year-old port wood finish. The latest launch from Highland distillery, Ardmore, this single

malt is full-bodied with a delicious smoky character from the peat.

Packed with spiced fruits, and with subtle notes of burnt orange, honey, apple and cinnamon spice, it's aged in American white oak ex-bourbon barrels and finished in European half port pipes. Earthy with a delightful touch



Jura Superstition is one of several great tasting Scottish whiskies worth trying at New Year

of sweetness. Perhaps try Balvenie's 12-year-old Old Doublewood malt whisky. Famed for their wood finishes and expertise in single malt maturation, Balvenie Doublewood spends the majority of time in a traditional oak whisky cask.

Or try Jura Superstition. If you love a

whisky that's smoky and peaty, then a bottle of Superstition nestled inside the new Jura limited edition gift tins offers the perfect opportunity to explore the spirit of an island distillery.

Situated off the north east of Islay, a sweet or smoky flavour profile sits at the heart of Jura's single malts.

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# Town set to become a winter wonderland



Ian Andrew and Cathy Andrew from FizzGigs Community Arts, who are organising a parade as part of the festival

## A CHRISTMAS festival will transform Ellesmere into a winter wonderland.

This year's Ellesmere Winter Festival will see lanterns on parade, a visit from Father Christmas and a chance to remember loved ones over the festive period.

The event, organised by the Ellesmere Chamber of Commerce, has been supported by community arts group FizzGigs, Ellesmere Town Council

and the Rotary Club. The event tomorrow (Friday) will begin with Christmas stalls in the Market Hall at 4pm when Father Christmas will welcome visitors to his grotto before carolling around the Tree of Light kicks off at 6pm.

The Rotary Club of Ellesmere has said it will be holding a Lights of Remembrance appeal where people will be able to sponsor a light for the tree in memory of a loved one.

After the carolling, there will be the grand lights switch-on and the Fizz-

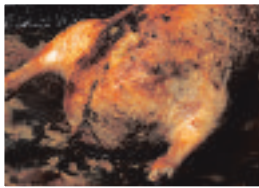
tastical Community Lantern Parade, showing off work created in workshops ahead of the event.

The lantern parade will welcome Father Christmas at The Wharf as he returns for the evening at 6.30pm on a narrow boat. Then there will be a parade around the town with a street band, giant puppets, giant sculptural lanterns and individual lanterns. Also on offer will be free donkey rides, late night shopping until 8pm, stalls in the market hall and hot food as well as street entertainment.

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Sun 27th 7.00am - 5.00pm

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Oswestry's Bailey Head was packed for the big Christmas switch-on



Hundreds of people turned out to see the Oswestry festive season get under way



Bungle the Bear and Oswestry Mayor Peter Cherrington have fun

# Festive season starts



Holy Trinity School Choir took the stage



Families from throughout the area turned out in force for the festive fun



Many people arrived at 4pm to enjoy all the festivities



The New Saints' Craig Harrison with James Bond



Bellan House Choir entertained the crowds

**OSWESTRY'S festive season officially got under way when around 1,000 people turned out to watch children's favourites Bungle the Bear and Olaf the Snowman switch on the town's Christmas lights.**

Crowds gathered at the Bailey Head from 4pm on Thursday last week as choirs from local schools provided musical entertainment on the stage outside the town's Powis Hall market.

The 11-strong choir from Our Lady and St Oswald's School sang songs they have been practising for their Christmas play.

Felicity Davies, nine, and Libby Morris, 10, said: "We've only been practising for two days but it's for the Christmas play at school so it's good to sing it in front of a lot of people. It was lots of fun. We weren't really nervous because we've sung in front of big crowds before."

After performances by Bellan House, Holy

## Report by Pam Kingsley

Trinity, Our Lady and St Oswald's, Meadows and Woodside primary schools, and Marches Secondary School, the Derwen College Makaton Choir got the whole crowd singing along as they performed a medley from Frozen, setting the stage for the appearance of the stars of the show to switch on the lights.

Oswestry-based actor Malcolm Lord, who played Bungle in 1980s children's show Rainbow, said: "Bungle is thrilled because he hasn't done a lights switch on for a few years. Whenever he did it, George and Zippy would be there too, and Zippy would always press the button."

"Bungle is doing it on his own now. He hopes it doesn't go bang and it all go dark, because Geoffrey has always told him not to play with electricity." Fortunately Bungle didn't have to worry as everything worked perfectly, with the crowd counting down and the lights switching on to a huge cheer.

The town's mayor, Cllr Peter Cherrington,

got more than he bargained for when he joined the bear on stage, though. Inspired by the children's fairground ride in the market square, Bungle asked the crowd to join in singing "I'm a little teapot" – with the mayor leading the actions.

Cllr Cherrington said: "I thought I was going to fall over, but it was great fun. It was an absolutely brilliant event. We had some terrific choirs, the kids enjoyed themselves and the weather stayed fine. We're so chuffed. There were more people here earlier this year than before. The lights are amazing this year. The crew at Blachere Illumination have done a great job. They've done the town proud. I would think this year's lights are the best we've ever had. We're so chuffed."

Brothers Gary and Ronnie Brown, from Blachere Illumination, had spent the previous week putting up the lights and testing them to make sure they looked spectacular when the switch was flipped. Gary said: "There are 40 different motifs around the town this year,

90 per cent of which are new for this year. I'm sure people will be impressed."

The New Saints Football Club also helped out at the big switch-on. Players and staff were present at the event and were on stage during the countdown. Manager Craig Harrison also had a chat with compere James Bond from BBC Radio Shropshire during the event.

Craig Harrison said: "It is great to be involved with the community and it is very important to us. It is imperative that we make sure we get involved with the local community and get involved with different schemes and initiatives."

The festive fun in Oswestry will continue with the town's popular Christmas Live event.

The event is organised by Oswestry Town Council and is aimed at getting everyone in the festive spirit. Oswestry Christmas Live will be held on Friday next week.

There will be fairground rides, an ice rink, a music stage, a Christmas market, fireworks, Santa's Grotto and lots more.

There will be late night shopping throughout the town. Oswestry Christmas Live runs from 6pm until 10pm. Oswestry's Christmas Parade takes place the following day.

Meanwhile, Oswestry residents are being challenged to light up their homes and gardens to try to win a prize.

The town's annual Christmas lights competition has been launched by the Oswestry in Bloom committee and judges will be taking to the streets to hunt out the best displays in the town. Betty Gull, chairwoman of Oswestry in Bloom, said: "In previous years, the standard of the displays has been extremely high and the committee are grateful to the local community for their hard work in making Oswestry a festive and welcoming town."

"Committee members will be touring the town throughout December looking for the best decorated residential Christmas display." For any further information or to nominate a property contact Louise Humphreys at Oswestry Town Council on (01691) 680222.



# Invitation to wine tasting days



Momentum Wines has more than 350 wines in stock with prices ranging from a fiver up to £100 a bottle

## PLANNING your festivities for the next few weeks of entertaining family and friends?

So, the turkey is ordered, compulsory sprouts for the kids (yuk!) – now, what about a decent bottle of wine or two.

Why not take the time this year to visit a specialist wine merchant, rather than simply grabbing a bottle or two from the supermarket.

It won't necessarily cost you any more –

and you will be pleasantly surprised by the experience of both selecting and drinking your bottles. Momentum Wines started life almost 10 years ago, initially on Oswald Road in Oswestry.

The business moved three years ago to a much larger, purpose built warehouse in the town, on the Maes-y-Clawdd industrial estate – opposite Morgans – but the wine cellar within the warehouse is very much open to the public, and offers a world of choice.

Howard Jones, Momentum's Managing Di-

rector, explained what it is that the business strives to offer its customers. "Our range is made up of wine sourced from smaller growers generally – where, in our opinion, greater love, care and attention is evident throughout the entire winemaking process. We do of course offer all the every-day favourites – Chilean Merlot, Italian Pinot Grigio etcetera, but our expertise is in introducing customers to wines they maybe wouldn't have selected themselves.

"If a customer tells us they normally buy

Pinot Grigio, we not only show them our range of that variety, but suggest they try a Verdicchio or a Gavi di Gavi from another part of Italy.

"We have over 350 wines in stock, with prices ranging from around a fiver up to £100 a bottle."

Of course the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Momentum Wines is having a two-day wine tasting event on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th December in its wine cellar.

There will be 30 or 40 wines open to taste – and the event is free of charge. So why not pop

down and discover what Momentum can offer you. From Prosecco to Pinot Noir, Champagne to Chardonnay, there is sure to be something to suit your palate and budget.

For those who prefer to shop from an armchair, there is a fully on-line store at [www.momentumwines.co.uk](http://www.momentumwines.co.uk). Delivery is free of charge for orders over £75 and there is no minimum order.

For corporate clients the firm can supply a whole range of solutions for your staff and customers – from a single bottle in a gift box up to bespoke hamper of fine wines and ports.

You are cordially invited to attend our

## Wine Tasting Event

on **FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER**  
Noon-8.00pm and  
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9.00am-5.00pm

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Warehouse Eight, Maes-y-Clawdd, Mile End Business Park, Maesbury Road Industrial Estate, Oswestry, SY10 8NN.

t: 01691 654499 [www.momentumwines.co.uk](http://www.momentumwines.co.uk)

December Opening Times: Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm. Saturday 9am - 3pm.



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# Christmas

in

Shropshire &  
Mid Wales



An eight-page advertisement feature highlighting the best of the festive season



## CHRISTMAS is just around the corner and the preparations are in full swing.

It's nearly time to put the tree up, buy and wrap all your presents, choose your party outfits and decide on what's for dinner on the big day. It's a time when local shops are

bustling, with cheery festive tunes playing on full blast, community spirit is at an all time-high and we all get the chance to spend quality time with our family and friends.

Over the next eight pages we are offering a feel of the best of Christmas in and around Shropshire and Mid Wales.

While the festivities are in full swing, how-

ever, the everyday tasks of our lives can be forgotten. The weekend before the big day is always hectic and the last thing you need to be worrying about is when to put your bins out.

During December, Veolia – the waste contractor working with Shropshire Council – will be delivering a Christmas bin collection

day reminder to all residents across Shropshire. If you do have excess waste and recycling over the festive season the five household recycling centres are open from 9am until 5pm each day (except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day).

The centres are located at Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Shrewsbury, Whitchurch and

Craven Arms. During the first few weeks of January, you can recycle real Christmas trees simply by putting them out for collection along with your garden waste.

In picture: A youngster enjoys the festive attractions which are on offer to families this Christmas at Blists Hill Victorian Town in Ironbridge.

Shropshire  
Council

## Christmas recycling & waste collections

### Day change reminder

The day of the week your waste and recycling is collected will change over the Christmas period.

These changes start the weekend before Christmas and end on Saturday 2 January.

Most collections will be before your usual day of collection and one will be later than usual.

### How to contact us:

[www.recycleforshropshire.com](http://www.recycleforshropshire.com)

Email: [customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 0345 678 9007

Normal collection day	Revised collection day	Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Collection dates earlier than normal in red			
Monday 21 December	Saturday 19 December	Monday 28 December	No change
Tuesday 22 December	Monday 21 December	Tuesday 29 December	No change
Wednesday 23 December	Tuesday 22 December	Wednesday 30 December	No change
Thursday 24 December	Wednesday 23 December	Thursday 31 December	No change
Friday 25 December	Thursday 24 December	Friday 1 January	Saturday 2 January

Week commencing Monday 4 January collections return to normal.

These dates are the same as those on your collection calendar.

In partnership with







Britain's longest serving Santa, Ray Hulse, with elf Susan Johnson



Bridgnorth High Street was packed with hundreds of visitors when the 2015 Christmas lights were switched on last week

# Town has lots to offer



Peter Morford, Mike Swales and John Woodfield from Bridgnorth Lions helped organise the switch-on event



Arrive in style in High Town via Bridgnorth Cliff Railway



A panoramic view of Bridgnorth High Street from the top of the town hall

## LOOKING for somewhere a bit different to do your Christmas shopping this year?

Tired of the same old routine high streets, claustrophobic and shopping malls and the lifeless internet?

Then the market town of Bridgnorth could provide the items you need to buy, with an injection of Christmas spirit and an atmosphere you won't find anywhere else.

Bridgnorth Chamber of Commerce member Jennifer Bone said: "It is so easy to just jump into your car and drive to the nearest large shopping centre, but Bridgnorth has unique

## By Karl Aston

and interesting shops filled with great Christmas gifts.

"Our restaurants and cafes offer delicious locally sourced food and even offer service with a smile in this beautiful vibrant town."

The town has enough of the high street shops to enable visitors to get the Christmas essentials, but also offers a huge range of bespoke and individual shops, enabling shoppers to consider some really unique gifts.

And the town offers a lot of other things apart from shops.

There are cafes and restaurants offering

everything from a quick coffee to a full blown sit-down meal.

A host of bars and pubs offer visitors the chance to take a break, relax and tick off the presents they have got and the ones they have yet to get.

Bridgnorth also offers visitor experiences that extend beyond retail, drinking and fine cuisine, with a cinema showing the latest blockbusters and a theatre, both close to the town centre.

Another distinctive attraction to the town is the cliff railway, which links the two halves of the town, High Town and Low Town and offers beautiful views across the River Severn.

Christmas Food & Craft Fayre

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December

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Delicious gifts and stocking fillers

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## Christmas in Shropshire



# Lots of gifts you will love to give



Antik, in Shrewsbury's Parade Shopping Centre, is packed with fantastic gift ideas

TO make good on last year's Christmas gifts haul always takes some doing, but that's why we've been hard at work at Antik in Shrewsbury to painstakingly find products we know you'll love to give.

As an antique shop with a twist, fusing century-old furniture with the very best in design-led, contemporary gifts and homeware, we know how to make a statement.

From decking the halls with unique and stylish decorations

handmade in Germany to seating your guests on bright, colourful furniture they'll want to take home, you're sure to turn a white Christmas 'orange' with us at Antik.

We're known for our colour and our latest arrivals are no exception. Expanding on our contemporary furniture selection is a French range of colourful stools with concealed storage and stylish wooden magazine and umbrella stands by stalwart brand Umbra. We've also a vibrant range of UK-designed, multi-functional alarm clocks and a whole host of little gifts a little out of the ordinary - because

we've travelled far and wide to get them here.

We're also building on last year's seasonal ranges with new Smokehouse and Indian dips from the popular Man-food brand as well as high quality flavoured fudge by Fudge Kitchen. Our tippie-related gifts are also strong this year, with entries from France, Italy and Sweden - including top hat wine toppers and a plethora of stylish wine glass designs.

You'll find us at The Parade, St. Mary's Place, Shrewsbury.

We're open Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm, and are on Twitter @antikshop and Facebook.com/Antik-Shrewsbury.



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# THE HALL AT ABBEY-CWM-HIR A REMARKABLE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



The Hall at Abbey-Cwm-Hir near Llandrindod Wells in Mid Wales is a celebrated tours venue with its combination of gothic architecture, stunning interiors, fascinating collections and beautiful gardens. The house will again be decorated in all 52 rooms for Christmas from 1st Nov 2015 to 6th Jan 2016. Each will have their own Christmas tree and individual decorative theme.

Entrance is £16.00pp for the house tour,  
or £14.00pp for groups or return visitors.

**GIFT VOUCHERS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE**

Bookings for individuals, small and large groups are now being taken on **01597 851727** or by emailing **info@abbeycwmhir.com**

Christmas in Shropshire & Mid Wales

# Christmas at the Hall

**CHRISTMAS** has arrived at a beautiful Mid Wales hall!

"We have finished decorating all 52 rooms with Christmas trees and to individual themes and are now open daily for our Christmas tours," says Victoria Humpherson, owner of the gothic mansion The Hall at Abbey-Cwm-Hir, near Llandrindod Wells.

"We do hope visitors from Wales and The Marches come to enjoy something unique in the UK. Within a true family home we have flights of fancy from the sublime to the unusual."

For a bit of fun, Victoria asked villagers who helped to create the spectacle to nominate their favourite rooms and trees. The results are below:



Each of the 52 rooms at The Hall has been individually decorated

Favourite Tree	Paul the Hall	Val the Soft Furnish	Bryan the Blacksmith	Gemma the Office	Karen the Motocross	Angela the Farm	Sandra the Artist
1	Button tree	Dolls House tree	Crystal tree	Decoupage tree	Dolls House tree	China tree	Pandora's Box tree
2	Decoupage tree	Crystal tree	Crochet tree	Hot Air Balloon tree	Crochet tree	Record tree	Dolls House tree
3	Crystal tree	Pandora's Box tree	Tor's Red tree	Chandelier tree	Pandora's Box tree	Timeless tree	Tor's Red tree
4	Hat & Shoe tree	Crochet tree	Seaside tree	Vintage tree	Crystal tree	Knitted tree	Hot Air Balloon tree
5	Crochet tree	Wine Bottle tree	Cherub tree	Reindeer tree	Wine Bottle tree	Pandora's Box tree	Wine Bottle tree
6	Pandora's Box tree	Knitted tree	Chandelier tree	Gold Droplet tree	Victorian tree	Button tree	Crystal tree
7	Letters tree	Teddy Bear tree	Timeless tree	China tree	Purple tree	Music tree	Crochet tree
8	Casino tree	Gold Droplet tree	Wine Bottle tree	Knitted tree	Reindeer tree	Crystal tree	Timeless tree
9	Victorian tree	Risque tree	Decoupage tree	Bah Humbug tree	Hat & Shoe tree	Wine Bottle tree	Gothic House trees
10	Phantom of the Opera tree	Dogs & Cats tree	Motorbike tree	Ballerina tree	Dogs & Cats tree	Crochet tree	Victorian tree

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# SHOPPERS CHECK OUT LOCAL ADVERTISING



41% of people decide where to shop as a result of seeing advertising in local media - ahead of supermarket promotions (25%), direct mail (21%) and TV advertising (19%)

SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014

To find out more about advertising in the Shropshire Star call 01952 24 24 24

**STAR**





# Festive shop full of great ideas

**STAFF at Shropshire's leading furniture department store are ready for the busiest time of the year with the launch of their first Christmas shop.**

Alan Ward in Shrewsbury has opened the dedicated festive shop within the homewares department at the flagship store in Ennerdale Road.

Sharron Marriott, homewares and cookshop buyer, said they had more gifts and festive themed homewares than any other year and staff were very excited about the festive season. Miss Marriott said: "As a buyer it seems I've been celebrating Christmas for several months now as I have been busy sourcing some great Christmas gift ideas and inspirational homewares for our customers."

"Every year people come to us for ideas to make their home extra special for the big day."

"Our stunning collections of themed cushions, throws, draft excluders and door stops are perfect for adding those extra special finishing touches."

"We've also got advent calendars for adults and children, candles, sleighs and reindeers to decorate your home in style, as well as wicker log baskets, wicker dog beds and small occasional pieces of furniture."

"Christmas really is a special time for families when people spend quality time at home – the traditional image of the log burner, rugs, throws, cushions and candles lit and the family opening presents together is one we all love to see and more importantly love to create here at Alan Ward."

"We've also got a working Stovey Stove in store which really adds to the festive atmosphere in the run up to Christmas."

Alan Ward also boasts leading brands in the cookshop and homewares departments offering a range of Christmas present ideas including Le Creuset, Wax Lyrical, Nespresso, Joseph Joseph, Brabantia and WoodWick Candles. "We also have tableware by Denby and Villeroy & Boch to make your Christmas table extra special."

"Lighting is so important in creating the perfect atmosphere and we have table lamps, floor lamps, ceiling lamps and specialist lighting for bathrooms and kitchens on display in our lighting department from leading brands such as David Hunt and Dar Lighting."



Hayley Rawlings, cookshop assistant, prepares the new Christmas gift shop at the Shrewsbury store

"It's also well worth a visit to our recently opened flooring and interiors showroom for carpet, rug and flooring inspiration. Why not treat someone you love to a gorgeous new rug from one of the 600 beautiful designs on display?" Miss Marriott said.

Alan Ward's flagship Shrewsbury store also boasts exclusive paints and wallpapers from British paint manufacturer Little Greene Paint and Paper company where dedicated staff can advise on creating a perfect interior.

"With our late night opening every Thurs-



Sharron Marriott, homewares and cookshop buyer and (right) Charlotte Edmunds, cookshop assistant at Alan Ward. The store has plenty of ideas to make homes extra special for the big day.

day until 8pm and our first floor coffee shop which is open every day from 10am to 4.30pm and Sunday 11am to 4pm, we really do offer the full shopping experience."

"Free parking outside the door, homemade refreshments to enjoy during your visit and a

relaxed shopping environment with everything for the home all under one roof – we really are looking forward to the build up to the big day," Miss Marriott added. Visit [www.alanward.co.uk](http://www.alanward.co.uk) and follow them on Twitter @AlanWardFurn and Facebook.com/AlanWardFurniture



this festive season

# Celebrate with us



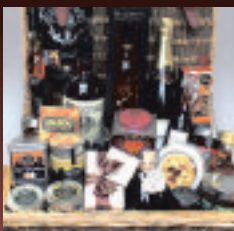
## The Clive



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- ★ Festive sampling throughout December
- ★ Gorgeous gifts for all the family



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We invite you to join us at The Clive. Whether you're making merry with work colleagues, family or friends, you can enjoy seasonal dishes featuring locally sourced ingredients from the Oakly Park Estate.

- ★ Festive Lunches from £18.00
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## Town traders to spread some festive cheer



Orla Leadbeater, Emma Beddow, Eva Allan, Kath Crewe, Emma Watts, Councillor Tony Forrester and Newport Chamber of Commerce chairman Patrick Beech with the winning window at Kitty Kraft in 2013



Previous winners at the Severn Hospice shop receiving their award from Father Christmas and Eva Allan

**TRADERS in Newport are being encouraged to help spread festive cheer around the town by decorating their windows for the return of a special competition.**

The Christmas Shop Window Competition is held in Newport every year to help get the shopping season under way.

Eva Allan, a former town mayor who has been involved with the competition for the past 15 years, said they

hoped for another good show of support from traders.

She said: "Businesses in Newport decorate their windows for every event, from St George's Day to the bike race. Everyone takes their time to do something in their window and I don't think there's another town in Shropshire that does it so well."

This year there are four awards and all businesses have to do to take part is decorate their window in a Christmas theme – the judges will be out and about up until December 16.

The John Henshalls Shield will be

awarded to the winning entry from Chamber of Commerce members, the Eva Allan Newport Town Council shield is up for grabs for non-members and the Bill Barrass (Newport Engravers) Shield will be given to the winning charity shop. The overall winner will receive the Kath Crewe Shield.

Results and presentations will be made on December 22, when Eva and Father Christmas will visit the winning businesses. Eva added: "Christmas is the time of year that everyone makes that special effort, please make 2015 even better."

## Leaflet sets out bin collections



Veolia's festive 'snowman' made from recycled waste

**THE weekend before the big day is always hectic and the last thing you need to be worrying about is when to put your bins out.**

During December, Veolia – the waste contractor working with Shropshire Council – will be delivering a Christmas bin collection day reminder to all residents across Shropshire.

The leaflet sets out the changes to your collection days over Christmas. The first change takes place on Saturday, December 19 – so check out the leaflet for more details.

Cat Slaytor, communications manager for Veolia said: "Christmas can be stressful enough, without having to worry about when to put your recycling and rubbish out."

Another way to keep up to date with waste and recycling issues is to like our Facebook page ShropshireWaste, or our twitter account @shropshirewaste.

You will also be able to see our new Christmas film, which is a fun way to remind residents about what can be recycled over Christmas.

If you do have excess waste and recycling over the festive season, don't forget that the five household recycling centres are open from 9am until

5pm each day (except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day).

The centres are located at Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Shrewsbury, Whitechurch and Craven Arms.

During the first few weeks of January, you can recycle real Christmas trees simply by putting them out for collection along with your garden waste. All real Christmas trees collected will be 'recycled' (actually they get sent for composting) and turned into valuable soil improver for local farmers and gardeners.

This year, for every tree recycled, a donation will be made to the local charity Caring for God's Acre, which looks after local cemeteries.

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# Step back in time to a Victorian Christmas

## Everything's coming up roses at rectory

**RESIDENTS** at Blists Hill Victorian Town, one of the ten Ironbridge Gorge Museums in Shropshire, will be busy preparing for Christmas over the two Festive Weekends of December 5-6 and 12-13, with a wealth of traditional celebrations and entertainment from the 1800s.

Experience the atmosphere of a bygone era as you explore the town. Listen to stories of life more than 100 years ago in the cosy cottages, enjoy seasonal music from bands and choirs and take a ride on a horse-drawn cart.

You can also visit Father Christmas in his wonderful grotto and see and pet his reindeer on The Green before they start their mammoth journey around the world on Christmas Eve.

Children can try a wide range of traditional activities in the Goods Shed such as printing Christmas cards, making paper-chain decorations, writing letters to Father Christmas and taking part in fun quizzes about fascinating Christmas facts.

A 'perfect Victorian Christmas card scene' will be on display centred on a beautifully decorated Christmas tree surrounded by presents.

### Gifts

Mr Morton's Christmas Celebrations will once again see the magnificent Iron Rolling Mill transformed into a place for a workers' Christmas party.

Here you will be able to enjoy a wide variety of seasonal entertainment such as Christmas songs, a mini-pantomime and sing-a-long with carol singers.

An unusual selection of Christmas gifts will also be on offer in the museum's shops, including traditionally made cast-iron paperweights and doorstops, a selection of hand-made plaster decorations, perfumed soaps, hand-printed gift wrap and traditional sweets.

Blists Hill will be open from 10am to 4pm on these special Christmas event weekends.

Entry is £16.95 for adults, £13.50 for 60+, £11.50 for children 5-18 years in full-time education and free for under fives.

While Annual Passport Tickets are not valid for these weekends, holders will receive a 25% discount off the admission price on presentation of their current passport.

A visit to Father Christmas is £3.50 extra per child.

The Gorge is easily reached via the M6 and M54 motorways exiting at Telford (M54 junction 4 or 6).

For further information contact the Ironbridge Visitor Information Centre on 01952 433424 or visit the website at [www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk)



Enjoy a Christmas sing-a-long with carol singers



Visit Father Christmas in his wonderful grotto and see and pet his reindeer

**ROSEMARY** and Adrian Brown at The Old Rectory of St James guest house in Stirchley Village had an early Christmas present – when they were awarded VisitEngland's new Rose accolade for 2015, one of only 100 throughout England.

In recognition of service excellence, this new tourism industry honour is designed to showcase accommodation providers that provide the warmest of welcomes.

Owners, managers and their team at the 100 recipients really know how to delight their customers, irrespective of their star rating, style or type of accommodation.

Rosemary and Adrian have worked hard to improve the standards at their 'quintessentially English guest house' and aim to provide the best possible service for their guests.

Earlier this year they won a Bronze Award for Excellence, while a recent assessment upgraded them from Silver to Gold standard in their four star rating. Now this Rose accolade is in recognition of the overall quality achieved.

Delighted with their latest award, Rosemary and Adrian said: "Guests have become more discerning and rightly expect a high quality all-round service during their stay."

### Feedback

"We enjoy what we do, ensuring guests have what they need from booking to check out; providing a welcome afternoon tea with home-made cakes and scones, and breakfasts that use the best local ingredients that Shropshire can offer. We believe that this is reflected in the hundreds of positive guest reviews and feedback we receive from our visitors."

"We hope that in a small way we encourage visitors to choose Telford as a place to stay and are proud to be in this beautiful area with so much on offer for business and pleasure."

Those recognised this year include 60 B&Bs/guest accommodation providers, 19 self-catering establishments, 16 hotels, two holiday parks/campsites, one narrowboat, one serviced apartment and one glamping site. Ratings range from two to five stars with every region across the country represented.

VisitEngland's chief executive James Berresford said: "Our new Rose awards focus on areas of excellence that all businesses can aspire to, aiming to provide inspiration to all."

"Celebrating those who go that extra mile by raising standards, they will no doubt encourage others to raise their game."

For more details about The Old Rectory of St James at Stirchley Village visit [www.theoldrectoryofstjames.co.uk](http://www.theoldrectoryofstjames.co.uk) or telephone 01952 598519.



Rosemary and Adrian with their VisitEngland's new Rose accolade

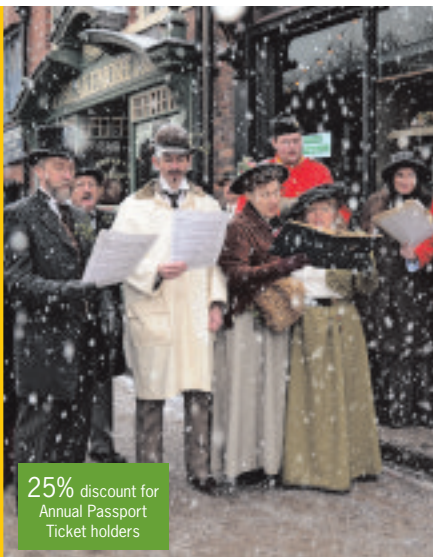


Rosemary and Adrian Brown outside The Old Rectory of St James

## Blists Hill VICTORIAN TOWN Christmas Weekends

5 & 6 and 12 & 13 Dec 2015, 10am - 4pm

- Meet Father Christmas and his Reindeer
- See the Victorian townsfolk prepare for Christmas in the shops & cottages
- Carol Singers, Brass Bands & mini-pantomime



25% discount for Annual Passport Ticket holders



**BUY TICKETS IN ADVANCE**

[www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk) or on the gate.

01952 433424

Annual Passport Tickets cannot be used for admission to the Christmas Weekends

**Ironbridge**  
BIRTHPLACE OF INDUSTRY





# Community spirit makes Christmas extra special



The lights switch-on was popular with many families



Oswestry's Holy Trinity School sung at the switch-on



Oswestry Mayor Peter Cherrington at the switch-on



Youngsters from various schools in Oswestry performed at the Christmas lights switch-on celebration

**star★extraTRAVEL**

## Costa Rica – Nature's paradise

Discover and explore Costa Rica, one of the world's most breathtaking natural treasure-troves. From the spectacular wildlife to the wonders of the Caribbean rainforest and the Pacific's blue waters, a trip to this tropical paradise is truly magnificent.

San Jose, the cosmopolitan capital, is where the adventure begins. Travel from here through jungle landscapes towards the very edge of the Caribbean Sea to reach Tortuguero National Park.

Two nights are spent in the Mawamba Lodge in the heart of this exotic haven. The area is a ribbon of thick rainforest criss-crossed by canals and waterways, and home to land turtles, languid manatees, sloths, caimans and crocodiles.

Journey through the rainforest and across the lowlands to La Fortuna, and see the famous Arenal volcano that erupted spectacularly in 1968. The area is also famous for its hot springs and thermal baths – so take the opportunity to enjoy a visit to the Eco Termales springs.

Drive round the northern tip of the Tilarán cordillera on the stunning 'Highway to Heaven' to idyllic Monteverde set amongst lush forests.

Travel down to the central Pacific Coast, and spend three days in a luxury hotel, near to the stunning Manuel Antonio National Park, the perfect background for rest and relaxation.

The final night is spent in San Jose, calling en route at the crafts town of Sarchi, where local crafts-folk vie to sell souvenirs from 'Nature's Paradise'.



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- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

*\*Variable according to departure date – please go to the website for latest prices and availability*

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions



There is always big crowds at Oswestry Christmas Live



There will be an ice rink at Oswestry Christmas Live

**THERE is plenty of community spirit during the festive season in every Shropshire town, ensuring Christmas is always a great time for families.**

That community spirit is very much in evidence in Oswestry every year when residents come out in numbers to back Christmas events.

About 1,000 people attended the Christmas lights switch-on in Oswestry this year.

BBC Radio Shropshire presenter James Bond compered the event on the Bailey Head and he was joined by Oswestry Town Mayor Councillor Peter Cherrington.

The squad from Oswestry's Welsh League football champions The New Saints also lent their support, ably backed up by popular club mascot Spot the Dog.

But star of the show was Bungle the Bear from popular children's TV programme Rainbow.

Oswestry-based actor Malcolm Lord played Bungle in the TV series and was delighted to play the role again at the big switch-on.

### Advertising Feature

Choirs from local schools kept the audience entertained with a selection of festive songs while performances were also given by Stagecoach theatre group and the Derwen College.

Bungle, assisted by the mayor, turned on the lights.

One of the biggest Christmas community events in the area is Oswestry Christmas Live.

The event is organised by Oswestry Town Council and is aimed at getting everyone in the festive spirit.

Oswestry Christmas Live will be held on Friday next week.

The huge annual event is in its 11th year.

There will be fairground rides, an ice rink, a music stage, a Christmas market, fireworks, Santa's Grotto and lots more.

And there will be late night shopping throughout the town.

Oswestry Christmas Live runs from 6pm until 10pm.

Meanwhile, Oswestry's Christmas Parade takes place on Saturday, December 5.

Last year, more than 80 groups took part in the parade, and Geoff Barre, Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club member, said he is hoping to better it this year.

He said: "Last year was magnificent. In fact the last few have been events to really be proud of. So many people take part and attend the crowds and

we want to make it bigger and better than ever."

Seven years ago the parade was in danger of folding because just two or three floats were taking part.

The Borderland Rotary Club stepped in to stop the procession from disappearing from the town's festive calendar.

Over the years the rotary club has encouraged more and more groups, organisations and businesses to join in with floats, smaller vehicles and even walking fancy dress entries.

The procession traditionally begins at 11am.

Oswestry retailers will also be doing their bit to get people into the festive spirit with a late night opening event.

Dubbed the Oswestry Christmas Retail Experience, the evening will see a host of festivities designed to make shopping fun throughout the town. Special family-focused entertainment includes a Santa's grotto at the Guildhall, Bailey Head and a gift wrapping station in Bailey Street.

Street food stalls, mulled wine, kids crafts and festive music will be held amid a dozen fairy-lit stalls throughout the town.

The event on December 11 has been organised by Oswestry Chamber of Commerce and business students from the Oswestry campus of North Shropshire College.



# ↑Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

29  
Oswestry & Border Chronicle  
Thursday, November 26, 2015



## Spacious detached home has great views

A spacious four-double bedroomed modern detached family house, The Firlands, 2 Withy Avenue, Fordon, Welshpool is tastefully presented and well appointed throughout. In a premier area of a popular village and having been greatly improved by the current owners, it is for sale through Norman Lloyd at £285,000.

With a private gated driveway with gardens

to the front and rear with views towards the Long Mountain countryside and Red Woods, the Offa's Dyke footpath is also close at hand. With oil central heating and double glazing it has a porch leading to a reception hall with WC and storage cupboard. There are three reception rooms together with a conservatory and well fitted kitchen, a generous utility room and side vestibule

giving access to the integral garage. From the galleried landing on the first floor there is an elevated balcony from which to enjoy the views.

And there are four double bedrooms leading off with a refitted family bathroom. For further information contact Norman Lloyd on 01938 552371 or visit [www.normanlloyd.co.uk](http://www.normanlloyd.co.uk)



## Stunning family property sits on the edge of village

The Chase at Trefonen near Oswestry is a spacious modern family home on the edge of the village. Built in 1999 by the current owner, it is a timber framed property offering 4,136 sq ft of accommodation with an outlook over the stream to the adjoining fields. It is on the market with a guide price of £750,000.

For further information contact Balfours on 01743 353511 or visit [www.balfours.co.uk](http://www.balfours.co.uk)



## Home is in walking distance of the town centre's facilities

An attractive Victorian mid terraced house, 19 Lloyd Street in Oswestry is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £100,000. The property is located within walking distance of the town's shopping centre. The home benefits from gas fired central heating and PVC double glazing. Accommodation comprises an entrance hall, a sitting room, a living room and a kitchen. There are also two bedrooms and a bathroom and the property benefits from front and rear gardens. For more information contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



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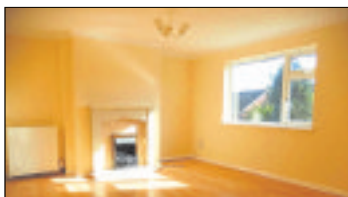
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## House in town has front and rear gardens

16 Maes Derwen is a three bedroom semi-detached modern house located in Llanfair Caereinion. It is for sale for £135,000 through Halls. Accommodation includes storm porch, entrance hall, good sized sitting room, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, first floor landing, three bedrooms and bathroom.

Outside the property benefits from off street parking and garden to both front and rear, with the main garden to the rear comprising raised terrace with paved patio, lawn and borders, all neatly enclosed making it a safe environment for children and pets. Contact Halls on 01938 55552 for more details.



## Country property has been fully renovated

A country property having been fully renovated, Ash Tree Cottage, Gwern-y-Brenin, Oswestry, is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with offers over £350,000. There is no chain and the property is set in a large garden plot only a short driving distance from Oswestry. The accommodation comprises a reception hall, a breakfast kitchen, a bathroom, dining room and living room. On the first floor is an ensuite bedroom and two further bedrooms. The property has a south facing aspect overlooking a large garden of about 0.7 acres, laid principally to lawn. For more information contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



CHARTERED SURVEYORS

**WEST FELTON**

- Fine Detached Bungalow On Outskirts Of Village
- OFCH & DG
- Living Room
- Kitchen Diner
- Three Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Garage/Workshop & Car Port
- Good Sized Garden Plot
- EPC Band - G

JJD883

**OFFERS ON £269,500**

**PANT**

Individually designed highly appointed three bed detached house

- O/F C/H, D/G
- Lounge & Study
- Breakfast Kitchen & Utility
- Sun Room
- Bathroom & En-Suite
- Children's Play Room/ Fourth Bedroom
- Garage & Car Parking
- Extensive Views
- EPC Band C

JJD782

**£420,000**

**GOBOWEN**

- Well Appointed Four Bed Detached House
- GFCH & PVC DG
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Kitchen Utility
- Cloakroom
- Conservatory
- Master Bed, En-Suite
- Garage And Car Parking
- Cul De Sac Location
- Backing Onto Open Fields
- EPC Band - C

JJD886

**NO CHAIN £249,999**

**OSWESTRY**

- Attractive Victorian End Terraced House
- Short Distance from Town Centre
- GFCH & PVC D/G
- Entrance Hall
- Sitting Room
- Living Room
- Kitchen And Cellar
- Three Bedrooms
- Front And Rear Gardens
- EPC Band - E

JJD882

**GUIDE PRICE £115,000**

**GOBOWEN**

- Detached Three Bedroom Split Level House
- GFCH, D/G
- Impressive Lounge
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen & Utility
- Garage & Car Parking
- Attractive Patio Garden
- Elevated Position
- Overlooking Village
- EPC Band D

JJD781

**£198,500**

**OSWESTRY**

- Recently Refurbished End Terrace House
- Walking Distance Of Town Centre And Woodside Primary School
- GFCH & PVC D/G
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- New Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- New Bathroom
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Store Shed
- EPC Band - D

JJD888

**GUIDE PRICE £97,500**

**GOBOWEN**

- Spacious Semi-Detached House
- Walking Distance Of Train Station & Village Amenities
- CH & Double Glazing
- Living Room & Dining Room
- Extended Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Ample Car Parking
- Large rear Garden
- Decked Patio/BBQ Area
- EPC Band - F

JJD840

**OFFERS ON £149,950**

**PORTH-Y-WAEN**

- Exceptionally Well Appointed Country Property
- Central Heating & D/ Glazing
- 2 Good Sized Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 3 Beds
- En-suite
- Bathroom
- Double Garaging and Workshop
- Attractive Garden And Small Paddock
- EPC Band E

JJD749

**£274,500**

**LLANFECHAIN**

- Kitchen
- Drawing Room
- Lounge & Sun Room
- Library & Study
- Cloakroom
- 5 Bedrooms/2 Baths
- Double Garaging
- Possibility to split accommodation
- EPC Band - C

JJD833

**GUIDE PRICE £400,000**

**GOBOWEN**

- Close Care Residential Bungalow
- Attractive Purpose Built Complex
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms
- Rear Enclosed Yard And Garage
- Short Walking Distance From Office
- EPC Band - F

JJD887

**£109,950**

**DEVELOPMENT SITE - HENGOED**

- Site Extending To 0.8 Acres
- Property Occupied By Repairs Garage
- OPP For Four Executive Dwellings
- Outskirts Of Village Location
- Open Views Across Surrounding Countryside
- We understand Mains Electricity And Water Available
- EPC Band - F

JJD893

**£445,000**

**OSWESTRY - TO LET**

- Town Centre Maisonette
- Fully Refurbished Accommodation
- Reception Hall
- Lounge
- Dining Area
- New Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- New Bathroom
- Security Entrance
- Deposit - £425
- Agreement Fee - £150
- EPC - E

JJD076

**£425**

**OSWESTRY (01691) 653437 - (01691) 680212**





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**Overton Road St Martins** £239,000

- 4 Double Bedroom Detached House
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall
- Sitting Room, Living Room
- Kitchen, Dining Room, Cloakroom
- 4 Beds, Family Bathroom, En-suite
- Driveway & Garage. EPC Rating D



**Sycamore Close St Martins** £199,995

- A well situated Detached Family Home
- Large corner plot with views over countryside
- Mable off road parking
- Private landscaped gardens
- Gas central heating and Double Glazing
- EPC Rating D



**Liwyn Road Oswestry** £119,950

- An excellent 2 Bedroom Terraced Property
- Maintained to the highest of standards
- Property re-roofed in 2013
- Open plan Lounge Dining Room, Kitchen
- 2 first floor Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Courtyard seating area & rear garden
- Double glazing & gas c/h. EPC Rating D



**Pitt Lane Treflach** £394,995

- An excellent Detached Country Property
- Reception Hall, Cloaks, Study, Lounge
- Sun Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Boot/Utility Rm
- 4 Double Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- South facing landscaped gardens, double garage
- Oil Central Heating. EPC Rating E



**Bronygarth Road Weston Rhyn** £399,990

- Edwardian Detached Period Property
- Veranda, Entrance Hall, Drawing Room
- Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, Utility
- Study/Living Room, Gallery Landing
- 5 Bedrooms (Two En-Suite) & Family Bathroom
- Mature landscaped gardens and orchard
- EPC Rating D



**Church Lane St Martins** £184,995

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- The property is in need of modernisation throughout
- Electric heating and timber D/G
- EPC Rating D. NO CHAIN



**Oswald Place Oswestry** £134,995

- 3 Bed Town House with Original Features
- Within Walking Distance of Town Centre
- Kitchen Lounge, Cloakroom
- 2 Beds and Bathroom
- Master Bed with adj Dressing Room
- Private Courtyard Garden
- Gas Central Heating, D/G. EPC Rating F



**Cherry Tree Drive St Martins** £130,000

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Good size corner plot with large garage and driveway
- D/G, Gas C/H, cavity wall and loft insulation
- EPC Rating D. NO CHAIN



**Park Avenue Oswestry** £120,000

- 2 Bedroom Terraced Property
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Good size lawned enclosed rear garden
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- EPC Rating E. NO CHAIN



**School Lane Gobowen** £179,950

- 4 Bedroom Link Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Kitchen
- Dining Room/Bed 3, Bedroom 2, Bathroom
- Lounge and 2 further First Floor Bedrooms
- Good plot with ample off road parking, garaging
- Private and well established rear garden
- Electric glazing, Gas C/H and solar panels
- EPC Rating C



**Churchfields St Martins** £132,000

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- The property was constructed approx 10 years ago
- Ent Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Utility, Cloaks, 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Drive & garage with good size rear garden
- Gas C/H and D/G. EPC Rating C



**Nant Lane Mordaf** £184,950

- Deceptively spacious Dormer Bungalow in an elevated position
- Hall, Lounge, Study, Kitchen, Bedrm 1
- Bedroom 2/Dining Rm, Ground Floor Bathrm
- 2 1st Floor Bedrms, adjoining garage & cloaks
- The gardens extend around the property
- D/G, Gas C/H, cavity wall & roof insulation.
- EPC 'D'

## Property Auction

10 December

2.00pm

@ the Lion Quays Hotel, Moreton  
Oswestry SY11 3EN



**Glyn Ceiriog Nr LLANGOLLEN**  
Guide Price £140,000-£160,000

- 3 bed detached property in need of modernisation
- Partial improvement works already undertaken
- Large plot in central location within Glyn Ceiriog
- EPC tbc
- Contact Chirk Office



**Ruabon Wrexham**  
Guide Price Over £70,000

- Ideal investment property
- Central village location
- 4 bedroom accommodation on 3 floors. Dining room, lounge and kitchen to the ground floor, landing, 2 double beds and bath to the first floor with a further 2 double bedrooms on the second floor
- EPC to E



**Gobowen Oswestry**  
Guide Price Over £30,000

- Potential Building Plot
- Central Village Location
- Pre-Application Enquiries made
- 205 square metres, measuring 18m x 11m average across the plot
- Contact Oswestry Office



**Coedpoeth Wrexham**  
Guide Price £100,000-£110,000

- End Terraced Property with DG
- Off Road Parking
- Lounge, Dining Kitchen
- Loft Room
- Views Over Open Countryside
- EPC Rating E
- Contact Wrexham Office



**Argyle Street Wrexham**  
Guide Price Over £100,000

- Prominent Retail Premises
- In Heart of The Town
- Spacious Accommodation
- Flexible Terms
- EPC to F
- Contact Wrexham Office



**Llay Wrexham**  
Guide Price £10,000-£20,000

- An interesting development opportunity for the construction of a new three bedroom house
- All services available
- Full Planning permission was granted by Wrexham County Borough under code number LLA/P/2011/0071
- Contact Wrexham Office



**Rhosllanerchrugog Wrexham**  
Guide Price £85,000

- Residential / commercial investment opportunity
- Let Retail shop with separate spacious 3 bedroom residential flat above
- Two storey garage/store building to rear
- EPC to D
- Contact Wrexham Office



**Holyhead Road LLANGOLLEN**  
Guide Price Over £5,000

- 1.20 ac (0.49 ha) of pasture land & 0.23 ac (0.09 ha) access driveway
- Currently laid to permanent pasture.
- Ideal for agricultural or equine recreational opportunities.
- Access onto council maintained lane.
- Contact Llangollen Office





## Former school is now a stunning home

The Old School in Nesscliffe is a former school dating back to 1753 which now has spacious and flexible accommodation with original features. The property offers potential for small business use, subject to the necessary consents, such as a B&B or shared accommodation, or the large schoolroom could be used as an office/small business. It has previously been used as a B&B, an art gallery and craft centre and a home office. It is for sale through Woodhead Sales and Lettings at £359,950. For further information contact Woodhead Sales and Lettings on 01691 680044.



## Superb cottage is in picturesque village

2 Liverpool Cottages at Meifod is on the market through Halls for £95,000. The sale presents a rare opportunity to purchase a superb three bedroomed cottage situated in the picturesque village of Meifod. The property benefits from an abundance of character features including exposed beams and inglenook fireplace. The property is situated within the centre of the village of Meifod. The village has a host of shops, amenities, primary school and public houses whilst the A495 provides a direct link to the larger towns of Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Welshpool. For more information call Halls' Welshpool office on 01938 555552.



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4 Bedrooms, 2 Bath/Shower Rooms (1 En Suite), EPC C  
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**RICS**



**Clevelands, Gobowen**

**£73,750**

Mid terraced character house. Three reception rooms and kitchen. Four bedrooms and bathroom. Enclosed private rear garden. Central village location. Requiring modernisation works. All mains services connected. EPC Rating = 26 (F) No Chain

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**29 Upper Chirk Bank**

**£189,000**

Spacious detached bungalow. 3/4 Bedrooms and modern bathroom. Lounge / Diner with cast iron multi fuel burner. Gas-fired central heating, double glazing. Enclosed rear garden and detached garage. Located in easy reach of A5 Trunk Road. Close to the Llangollen Canal. EPC Rating = 62 (D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**24 Maes-y-Dderwen, Llanfyllin**

**£199,500**

Modern detached bungalow. Excellent condition internally and externally. Lounge, kitchen/breakfast, conservatory. Master bedroom with en-suite shower. Two further bedrooms, family bathroom. Oil-fired central heating, double glazing. Attractive landscaped gardens. EPC Rating = 69 (C) No Chain.

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**6 King Street, Oswestry**

**£77,500**

End terrace town house. Two receptions and fitted kitchen. Two bedrooms and fitted bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazing. Rear yard and store. Cash Buyers Only - ideal investment. EPC Rating = 44 (E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**13 Victoria Road, Oswestry**

**£179,995**

Mid terrace character town house. Three reception rooms and kitchen. Four bedrooms and bathroom. Partial double glazing, electric storage heaters. Private enclosed rear garden. Brick walled forecourt approach. Many original features remain. Scope for modernisation. EPC Rating = 29 (F)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**6 Parc Llwyfen, Llanymynech**

**£129,950**

Modern three bedroom end terrace house. Lounge, kitchen and family bathroom. Ground floor cloakroom, enclosed rear garden. LPG central heating, double glazing. Affordable home subject to Sec 106 Agreement. Pleasant village location. Constructed to a high specification. EPC Rating = 64 (D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

With commodity prices in many agricultural sectors under pressure it is perhaps not surprising that many businesses are reviewing the structure of their bank debts in an attempt to alleviate their short to medium term cashflow pressures. For many years AMC have been recognised as reliable through-the-cycle lenders to UK agriculture and it is our long-term view and understanding of the sector that is currently proving to be so valuable to many business striving to alleviate cashflow pressures through the restructuring of their bank debts. Does this sound of interest to you:

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Tony Evans 07764 663 190 or Robert Hudson 07764 663 185



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Oswestry Office 01691 679595

## RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LET OSWESTRY

Self-Cont G/F Bedsit, FTE, No Pets, (Over 21s)(EER=34)(£310 dep)..... £210 pcm  
Self-Cont G/F Bedsit, Elect/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=25) (£340 dep) ..... £240 pcm  
1 Bed G/F Floor Flat, Elect/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=53)(£320 dep) ..... £320 pcm  
1 Bed 1st/Floor Flat, Elect/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=66) (£325 dep) ..... £325 pcm  
1 Bed Mid-Ter House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=40)(£445 dep) .... £345 pcm  
2 Bed 1st/Floor Flat, Elect/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=27) (£460 dep) ..... £350 pcm  
2 Bed Mid-Ter House, Garden, FTE, No Pets, (EER=31)(£475 dep) ..... £375 pcm  
2 Bed 1st/Floor Flat, Elect/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=53) (£450 dep) ..... 450 pcm  
3 Bed Mid-Ter House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=64) (£825 dep) ... £525 pcm

### GOBOWEN

1 Bed Open Plan Flat, Elect/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=68) (£350 dep)..... £250 pcm  
3 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=52) (£595 dep) £495 pcm  
3 Bed House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=79) (£695 dep) ..... £575 pcm

### ELLESMERE

3 Bed Barn Conversion, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=21) (£850 dep) ..... £750 pcm

### MAESBURY MARSH

3 Bed Semi-Det Cottage, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=29) (£695 dep) £595 pcm

### WEST FELTON

2 Bed End-Terr House, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=67) (£525 dep) ..... £425 pcm

Fees: Application Fee: £40. Lease Fee: £132 [www.morrismarshall.co.uk](http://www.morrismarshall.co.uk)

Aberystwyth 01970 625020  
Llanidloes 01686 412567  
Machynlleth 01654 702472

Newtown 01686 626160  
Oswestry 01691 679595  
Shrewsbury 01743 247755

Tywyn 01654 710388  
Welshpool 01938 554818  
Aberdyfi (window display)





## Property in village has well proportioned rooms

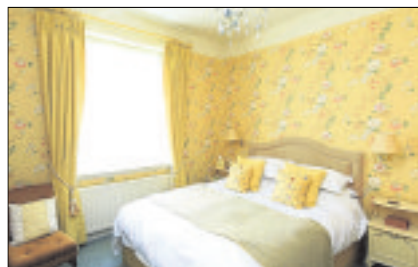
14 Dol Las is a four-bedroom, two storey property located in a quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of the popular village of Abermule. It is for sale through Halls with offers in the region of £195,000. The internal accommodation is well laid out and offers well-proportioned rooms providing for entrance hall with ground floor WC, generous sized lounge, well fitted kitchen, dining room with patio doors to rear gardens, useful study/hobby room. From the entrance hall, a staircase leads to the first floor landing with doors off to master bedroom with en-suite shower room, three further bedrooms and bathroom. Contact Halls on 01938 555552 for details.



## Extended detached house available in popular village

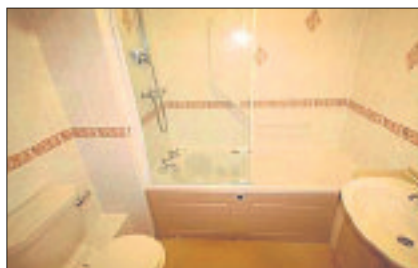
An extended detached house, 18 Peverel Drive in Whittington is on the market with Morris Marshall & Poole for £255,000.

The property has four bedrooms, two of which are en-suite. Other accommodation includes lounge, dining room, living kitchen, utility area, cloakroom and office/snug. The property benefits from gas-fired central heating and double glazing. There are good sized gardens to side and rear and there is a large timber built vehicle/fuel store. Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more details.



## Eye-catching residence is full of charm

The Old Vicarage at Dolfor, Newtown, comprises a charming and typical example of a Victorian period ecclesiastical residence, having been constructed in approximately 1880. It is for sale for £595,000 through Halls. The accommodation offers two formal reception rooms set either side of the entrance hall, both with high ceilings and attractive bay windows. There is a further snug/study, large kitchen with pantry and rear conservatory/sun room, as well as a WC, on the ground floor. The first floor boasts five bedrooms, three with en-suite, and a family bathroom. For more details contact Halls on 01938 555552.



## Rarely available retirement apartment on market

Rarely available, 59 Abraham Court is a two bedroom retirement apartment within walking distance of Oswestry. It is on the market through Town & Country for £119,000. This apartment is located on the second floor and comprises entrance hall, living room, kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom. Residents must be over the age of 60 years. The house manager can be contacted from various points in each apartment in the case of an emergency. For periods when the house manager is off duty there is a 24 hour emergency Careline system. Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 for details.





# TOWN & COUNTRY

Tel :01691 679631

## LETTINGS

- Oswestry - 1 Bed Apartment - £450pcm
- Oswestry - 1 Bed Apartment - £450pcm
- Trefonen - One Bed Cottage - £525pcm
- Pontrobert - 3 Bed Semi-Detached - £450pcm
- Oswestry - 5 Bed Detached - £750pcm
- Oswestry - 2 Bed Bungalow - £500 pcm
- Melverley - 3 Bed Detached with land - £1100 pcm
- Oswestry - 2 bed flat - £375pcm
- Oswestry - 2 Bed Apartment - £450pcm
- Kinnerley - 2 Bed Semi Detached House - £550 pcm
- Fees apply for all rental properties

## FOEL, WELSHPOOL



- FOR SALE BY AUCTION
- Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Detached Garage
- Ample Off-Road Parking
- Two Reception Room

For auction Guide Price £125,000

## LAKE VYRNWY, LLANWDDYN



- VIEWING RECOMMENDED
- Picturesque Location
- Two/Three Bedroom
- Good Sized Garden
- Off-Road Parking
- Holiday Home

Offers in excess of £110,000

## OSWESTRY



- NO CHAIN!!!
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- INVESTMENT PROPERTY
- Three Bedrooms
- Mid Terrace
- Well Maintained Throughout
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- New Gas Central Heating
- uPVC Double Glazing
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

£115,000

## CHIRK BANK



- Popular Location
- End of Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Ideal FTB or investment
- Well maintained Throughout
- Allocated Parking 2 Vehicles

Offers over £129,950

## PONTROBERT



- End Terrace Property
- Rural Village Location
- Three Bedrooms
- Gas C. Heating / D. Glazing
- Allocated Parking
- Spectacular Views

£133,995

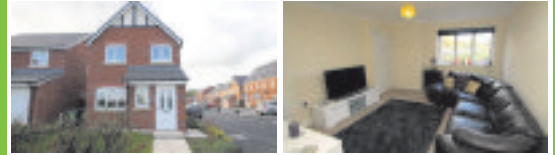
## LLANFYLLIN



- Four Bedroom Detached
- 20 Acres +
- Equestrian
- Large Barn
- Stables
- Two En-suites
- Family Bathroom
- Downstairs WC
- Annex
- Outstanding Views

Offers in the region of £475,000

## LLANYMYNECH



- Three Bedroom
- Master En-suite
- Contemporary Detached
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom

£147,950

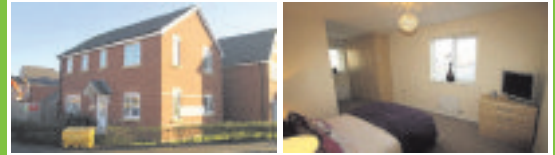
## OSWESTRY



- WITH NO CHAIN!!!
- Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms. EPC E
- Cul de Sac Location
- Off Road Parking and Carport
- Gas C. H. & D. Glazing

£160,000

## LLANYMYNECH



- Brand New Detached House
- Incentives Available
- Fully Carpeted and Turfed
- Ensuite & Cloakroom
- Garage & Parking
- Village Location

£164,995

## FOXEN MANOR, FOUR CROSSES



- Extended Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- Utility Room
- Ground Floor WC
- Master Bedroom with Ensuite

£165,000

## FRONCYSYLLE



- Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Near The Canal
- Off Road Parking

Offers over £175,000

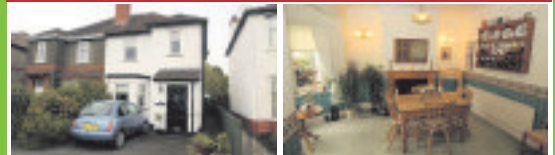
## HIGH STREET, WESTON RHYN



- Detached Three Bedroom
- Large Corner Plot Garden
- Three Bedrooms
- EPC Rating E.

Offers in the region of £179,950

## OSWESTRY



- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Two Reception Rooms
- Good Sized Rear Garden
- Sash Windows

Offers in the region of £185,000

## WOOLSTON BANK, NR MAESBURY



- NO CHAIN!!!!!!
- Detached Cottage
- Rural Location
- Off-Road Parking
- Wet Room
- Family Bathroom

£189,950

## OSWESTRY



- Spacious Detached
- Four Bedrooms
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Ample Off-Road Parking
- Single Garage
- Gas Central Heating

£199,950

## LLANARMON



- Idyllic Location
- Three Bedroom Detached
- Downstairs WC
- Garage
- Off-Road Parking
- Lovely Gardens

£255,000

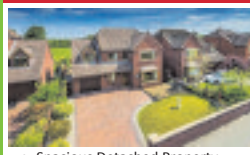
## OSWESTRY



- Detached Family Home
- Edge of Development
- Four Bedrooms
- Two En-suite

£275,000

## OSWESTRY



- Spacious Detached Property
- Five Bedrooms
- Master En-Suite
- Views

Offers in the region of £329,000

## CROESAUBACH



- Detached Country Cottage
- Three Reception Rooms
- Four Acres of Land
- Rural Location

£350,000

## CEFN COCH



- Traditional Four Bedroom Farmhouse
- Secluded Location
- Original Features Throughout

£360,000

## PENYBONTFAWR



- Traditional Welsh Long House
- Set in 6.83 Acres
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Outbuildings and Parking

Offers in the region of £360,000

## NR GUILDFIELD



- Beautiful Small Holding
- Four Bedroom House
- Approximately 5 Acres
- Several Outbuildings

£625,000





## Cinema listings

### STEVE JOBS (15)



Brilliant – 10/10

The story of Apple boss Steve Jobs (Michael Fassbender) is framed around three infamous product launches. Rivalries simmer and co-founder Steve Wozniak (Seth Rogen) reminds Steve that being in charge doesn't come at the expense of good manners. Steve Jobs is an artistic triumph for director Danny Boyle, while Fassbender lights the fuse on his own Oscar chances.

### THE LADY IN THE VAN (12A)



Vantastic – 8/10

Alan Bennett (Alex Jennings) foolishly agrees to let an old lady tramp take up residence on his driveway for a few weeks. Months turn into years and the playwright despairs as he becomes Miss Shepherd's guardian and suffers regular visits from interfering social services. The Lady In The Van is an amusing and heart-warming tonic.

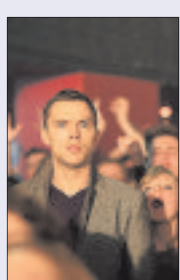
### BROOKLYN (12A)



Love triangle – 8/10

Ellis Lacey (Saoirse Ronan) is a shrinking violet in Ennisclorthy but secures a one-way ticket to a brighter future in New York. She also sparks a tender romance with a handsome plumber called Tony. The lovebirds marry in secret, but when Ellis returns home to Ennisclorthy, local boy Jim Farrell unexpectedly turns her head for small-town life.

### KILL YOUR FRIENDS (18)



Murder on dancefloor – 7/10

The year is 1997 and Steven Stelfox (Nicholas Hoult) is a scheming A&R junior at the London-based Unigram Records. When Steven loses out on promotion he decides to kill his new boss. The untimely death piques the curiosity of a music-obsessed police detective. Flashes of stomach-churning violence merit the film's 18 certificate.

# Adaptation is perfect fit

Review by Kate Whiting

**REVENGE, mother-daughter bonds and the transformative power of clothes are the threads stitched deftly throughout Jocelyn Moorhouse's quirky Australian comedy drama, which induces tears as much as giggles.**

At its heart is the beautifully shifting relationship between the titular dressmaker, Tilly Dunnage (Kate Winslet), and her senile single mother, Molly (Judy Davis) – who both, in turn, need mothering.

Based on the bestseller by Rosalie Ham, who also adapted it for the screen, The Dressmaker is set in the 1950s in the small town of Dungatar and opens with a perfectly coiffed Winslet, as Tilly, arriving with her Singer sewing machine.

She languorously lights a cigarette before announcing, menacingly, "I'm back you b\*\*\*\*\*s!"

Through eerie black and white flashbacks, which are a little TV movie-esque, we learn that Tilly was sent away as a child for her involvement in the death of a schoolboy.

Having found her metier as a seamstress and trained with the likes of Balenciaga in Paris, she's returned to Dungatar for her elderly mother Molly and to uncover who's to blame for what happened to her as a child.

Tilly finds her mother bed-ridden in a filthy house, not recognising her own daughter, and sets about cleansing and nursing her back to health – against her wishes.

Tea chests of exotic fabrics arriving from



Kate Winslet stars in the quirky comedy drama set in small town Australia

Paris soon pique the interest of Sergeant Farrat (Hugo Weaving) who has a secret – like almost everyone else in the town.

Tilly makes her presence known – and advertises her skills – by posing in two stunning dresses pitch-side at a local football match.

Tilly also captures the attention of footballer Teddy McSwiney (Liam Hemsworth), whose family has been keeping an eye on

old 'Mad Molly' in the daughter's absence. She initially resists his overtures, fearing her past has cursed her.

Gradually Tilly's new customers, Sergeant Farrat and Teddy help the outcast to piece together what really happened when she was younger, and the town's case against her begins to unravel.

Weaving delivers a stand-out performance as the by-turns flamboyant and

deadly serious policeman, who acts as a buffer between Tilly and the unforgiving townfolk.

Winslet is never overly challenged by the demands of her role, but she plays Tilly's softer, more vulnerable side extremely well. It's refreshing to see Hemsworth, some 15 years younger than Winslet, playing the love interest, when it's so often the other way round.

## Book reviews

### THE ICE TWINS

By S K Tremayne  
Published by HarperCollins

A year after one of their identical twin daughters has died Sarah and Angus Moorcroft move away to a remote Scottish island to rebuild their shattered lives.

But as the family try and adjust to their new surroundings they are rocked by doubts about the identity of the surviving daughter. Recriminations and revelations slowly pull Sarah and Angus apart as they watch their daughter becoming increasingly confused and disturbed about who she is.



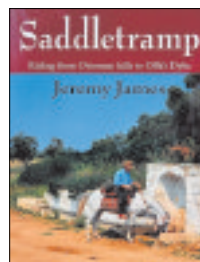
Part ghost story, part psychological thriller, The Ice Twins is a gripping tale. The plot structure is brilliantly done with the end of each chapter making the hairs on your neck stand up.

By David Briggs

### SADDLETRAMP

By Jeremy James  
Published by Merlin Unwin Books

Horse lover or not, you'll want to saddle up after reading this remarkable story. The adventure begins in Turkey, where Jeremy must find a horse to fulfil his dream of riding back to his then hometown in Wales. He admits he is slightly ignorant in what to look for – besides a leg on each corner – and ignores the advice of locals to go in a Porsche instead. He soon finds his first steed, an aged arab stallion, who turns out to be spirited, intelligent and the perfect travelling companion. The accounts of the



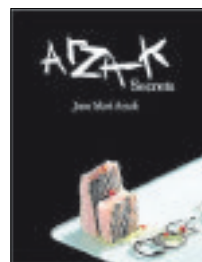
people and places they encounter are affectionate and inspiring. Black and white pictures show the contrast between the stark landscapes and the warmth of the hospitality they are shown.

By Liz Gray

### ARZAK SECRETS

By Juan Mari Arzak  
Published by Grub Street

The Basque food of Juan Mari Arzak is among the most influential in the world. Arzak and his daughter Elena have helped to reshape world cuisine. They themselves learned from the greats: Juan working with Paul Bocuse and the Troisgros brothers and Elena with Alain Ducasse, Ferran Adria and Pierre Gagnaire. Little wonder their restaurant is rated one of the top 10 in the world. Arzak Secrets lifts the lid on fabled three Michelin star recipes. It is for those who are not only interested in recipes but also



want to know more about the creative decisions that lead to innovation. Highly complex and continually pushing at the frontiers, it is a revelation for those with a passion for high-end gastronomy.

By Andy Richardson

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Simon Mayo and Mark Kermode at Theatre Severn



Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury is about to sell its one millionth ticket

# Town theatre set for landmark moment

**THEATRE Severn will, very soon, sell its one millionth ticket.**

It is a remarkable achievement for the popular arts venue, which has come a long way since its official opening on March 25, 2009, by Prince Edward.

The Royal visitor was presented with two Merrythought Bears when he cut the red tape at the £28 million complex six years ago.

A production of Romany Wood followed, starring Timothy West, one of Britain's greatest actors. The dance and musical spectacular featured more than 400 young people from across Shropshire. The rest, as they say, is history.

Theatre Severn has become one of the most popular provincial theatres in the UK, drawing big crowds and bringing money to the Shropshire economy.

The venue had opened to the public a month before the Prince's ceremonial visit.

Architects had designed its impressive 638-seat main auditorium and a smaller 250-seat studio, called the Walker Theatre, to fit in with the riverside location. There was also a dance studio, an exhibition space, restaurant and Chapel Bar. An exhibition of photography by Sue Hall charted the construction project, from the demolition of old buildings at Frankwell Quay to the completion of the new venue.

Appropriately, the venue was opened with a tribute to the town's most famous son, Charles Darwin. The annual Darwin Memorial Lecture was presented by Professor Lord May to a sell-out audience in the main house.

It had been a long time coming – taking 40 years to move from the drawing board to reality. The theatre's creation was overseen by the then-Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council, which was later subsumed during the creation of Shropshire Council's unitary authority.

Former cultural services manager Lesley Picton oversaw the project. On launch day, she said: "Forty five years we've waited to get this building up and running and it's a

## SPECIAL REPORT

Report by Andy Richardson

really momentous occasion. It's a day that will stay with the staff here forever."

The venue replaced facilities at Shrewsbury Music Hall, which had been deemed inadequate and unfit for purpose.

Theatre Severn was created from an old Methodist chapel, which had previously been a car tyre business. It provided public access on four levels. In its first week, six events in the main auditorium sold out – including poet Pam Ayres, former MP Tony Benn, comedian Jason Manford and the ever-popular St David's Day concert.

Ms Picton said: "The need for a new venue was first recorded at a council meeting in 1969 – 40 years later they got one. I was employed in 1998 to head up the opening of the new theatre.

"Only six weeks after I started the councillors changed their mind. But we got there in the end – everything comes to those who wait."

Ms Picton is thrilled the theatre has reached its one-million-visitor milestone.

"I am so thrilled by the success of Theatre Severn. For many years, in my office at the Music Hall, there was a large sign that said 'If you Build It They Will Come'. It was unashamedly pinched from Field of Dreams, one of my favourite films. But here we are in no time at all approaching the sale of the 1,000,000th ticket. It's not just about the numbers though, it's about the customer experience.

"I love nothing more than overhearing a conversation in a restaurant or café from proud Salopians telling their friends and relatives about Shrewsbury's fabulous Theatre Severn. I know it will continue to be a major cultural asset to Shrewsbury and Shropshire for many, many years to come."

Over the years Theatre Severn has housed around 2,500 performances, the venue has moved from programming shows around weekends and now sees performance virtually every night of the week.



Crowds have flocked to many shows staged by Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury

## Young stars get the chance to shine during new show

**A THEATRE company in Oswestry has turned to some of its younger members for the pre-Christmas production of Alice in Wonderland**

The Attfield theatre company will put on the classic fantasy story from Monday next week to December 5, with plenty of young actors taking on various roles.

Grace Turner, 17, will be taking the lead of Alice, who falls down a rabbit hole to enter a magical world inhabited by strange creatures and where nothing is what it seems.

### Show

Tickets for the show, priced at £7, are available from the company's box office at the Guildhall on (01691) 680222.

Meanwhile, local choir Guilsfield Singers will be presenting two Christmas concerts this year.

The first will be at St Beuno's Church, Berriew, on Sunday, December 13.

This is an afternoon concert, beginning at 3.30pm.

The following Thursday, on December 17, the choir will



sing at St Aelhaiarn's, Guilsfield, in an evening concert starting at 7pm.

Both concerts will include a selection of seasonal music.

The music will be ranging from the 16th century – Byrd's "An earthly tree" – to the 20th century, with carols by John Rutter.

The choir will also sing an arrangement by Bob Chilcott

of Christina Rossetti's "In the bleak Midwinter", organisers have revealed.

There will be familiar carols for everyone to sing to get into the festive spirit.

At Berriew there will be no charge for admission but there will be a retiring collection. Tickets for the Guilsfield concert are available from choir members, or by telephone on (01938) 555249.

Tickets for both concerts will be available at the door. In October the choir travelled to Worcester Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong.

Choir members said very favourable comments were made by the congregation, some of whom travelled from the Guilsfield area to support the choir.

The cathedral staff, similarly impressed by the standard of singing have invited the choir to return.

For more information about the choir and forthcoming concerts contact Jen Stocking, Guilsfield Singers secretary by emailing [jen.stocking@btinternet.com](mailto:jen.stocking@btinternet.com) or visit the choir's website at [www.guilsfieldsingers.org.uk](http://www.guilsfieldsingers.org.uk)

● **Photo – Grace Turner as Alice and Shaun Higgins as the Mad Hatter will be performing at Oswestry Attfield Theatre. Photograph by Gordon McCombe**



### Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

**Saturday Night from £149.<sup>95</sup>**

**Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159.<sup>95</sup>**

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. For the Saturday Night option see the evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

### Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

**Saturday Night Theatre from £169.<sup>95</sup>**

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels (hotel supplements may apply) and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

**Theatre Showstopper from £239.<sup>95</sup>**

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.

Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies.

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

For a theatre brochure call the Promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to [shropshirestar.com/starextratravel](http://shropshirestar.com/starextratravel)

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions





**Tennis: Davis Cup Final**  
*2.05pm*  
Belgium v Great Britain. Day two of the World Group's showpiece match, featuring the doubles rubber at Flanders Expo in Ghent. Brothers Andy and Jamie Murray have teamed up for the doubles match in the two previous rounds, and recorded victories over France and Australia.



**The Great Pottery Throw Down**  
*5.40pm*  
The six remaining potters are challenged to make a garden sculpture out of slabs of clay and with a place in the semi-final at stake, their designs prove to be more ambitious than ever before. For their Spot Test, the hopefuls transform a chimney pot into a strawberry container.



**The Chase: Celebrity Special**  
*7pm*  
Actress Sally Phillips, musician Rick Wakeman, professional snowboarder Jenny Jones and impressionist Alistair McGowan pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser, as Bradley Walsh hosts another star-studded edition of the show.



**Easy A**  
*12.15am*  
A misfit teenage girl lies about her non-existent sexual history, and soon becomes the talk of the school. While she endures the harassment of conservative classmates, she grows to love the attention and sets out to create yet more rumours. Teen comedy, starring Emma Stone.



**Football League Tonight**  
*9pm*  
Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Huddersfield Town v Middlesbrough, Queens Park Rangers v Leeds United, Barnsley v Sheffield United and Plymouth Argyle v Leyton Orient.

**BBC1**

- 6.00 Breakfast.**  
**10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** DJ, broadcaster and incoming Top Gear host Chris Evans faces food heaven or hell as James Martin invites Jason Atherton and Russell Norman to prepare dishes in the studio.  
**11.30 Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's fixtures, which include Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea and Leicester City v Manchester United.  
**12.00 BBC News; Weather.**  
**12.10 Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix - Qualifying.** Suzi Perry presents coverage of the battle for pole position in the 19th and final round of the season from Yas Marina Circuit (Start-time 1.00pm).  
**2.05 Tennis: Davis Cup Final.** Belgium v Great Britain. Coverage of day two of the World Group's showpiece match, featuring the doubles rubber at Flanders Expo in Ghent.  
**5.10 Celebrity Mastermind.** Johnny Ball, Mary Anne Hobbs, Neil Fitzmaurice and Katie Thistleton answer questions on Michael Faraday, Barry Sheene, Robert De Niro and the character Rachel Green from Friends. (R)  
**5.40 BBC News.**  
**5.50 Midlands Today; Weather.**  
**6.00 Pointless Celebrities.** David Coulthard, Mark Webber, Allan McNish, Claire Williams, Murray Walker, Nigel Mansell, Christian Horner and Suzi Perry take part in a Formula One-themed edition of the quiz.  
**6.50 Strictly Come Dancing.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the seven remaining couples show off their Ballroom and Latin routines, with the two least successful pairs facing a dance-off tomorrow.  
**8.05 Doctor Who.** The Doctor is stranded alone on a strange world, and must face a creature known only as "the Veil" as his quest to return to Gallifrey grows closer to a conclusion than ever before.  
**9.00 Casualty.** Cal contests the outcome of Matilda's paternity test, and makes a shocking discovery about his own history in the process. Meanwhile, Jacob proves he is now in control of his anger.  
**9.50 The National Lottery Live.** Special guest Jason Donovan performs live, and does the honour of pushing the button as host Ore Oduba reveals the all-important winning numbers.  
**10.00 BBC News; Weather.**  
**10.20 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker introduces highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Southampton and Leicester City v Manchester United; **National Lottery Update.**  
**11.40 The Apprentice.** The contestants are summoned to the V&A Museum of Childhood, where Lord Sugar gives them the task of setting up and hosting a children's party for some high spending clients. (R)  
**12.40 Weather for the Week Ahead.**  
**12.45 BBC News.**

**BBC2**

- 6.10 Race to Super Bowl 50.** Mark Chapman presents action from week 11 of the NFL regular season. (R)  
**6.55 FILM: Tennessee's Partner (1955).** Western, starring John Payne and Ronald Reagan.  
**8.20 Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix - Practice Two.** Action from the Yas Marina Circuit.  
**9.55 Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix - Practice Three.** Live coverage of the third Abu Dhabi Grand Prix practice session.  
**11.05 F1 Rewind - Amazing Races.** Highlights of races from 1996, 2011 and 2014.  
**12.05 Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip.** Terry Wogan and Mason McQueen visit Winchester. (R)  
**12.35 Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip.** Terry Wogan and Mason McQueen taste the food of Birmingham. (R)  
**1.05 Live Snooker: UK Championship.** The second round gets under way at the Barbican Centre in York.  
**4.30 Final Score.** A round-up of this afternoon's football results.  
**5.10 Flog It!** Paul Martin and the experts delve into Liverpool's musical heritage.  
**5.40 The Great Pottery Throw Down.** The six remaining potters make a garden sculpture out of slabs of clay. (R)  
**6.40 Great Continental Railway Journeys.** Travelling from Barcelona to Majorca, Michael Portillo traces the early roots of the Spanish Civil War, which divided his family and sent his father into exile. Last in the series. (R)  
**7.40 Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands.** Michelle Dockery narrates a documentary examining the wildlife of the east Asian country, beginning with the animals that live on the island of Honshu. (R)  
**8.40 Dad's Army.** Walker is caught smuggling Italian PoWs out of camp at night, but far from being a traitor, he is furthering the war effort - and making some money on the side. (R)  
**9.10 QI XL.** Bill Bailey, Jo Brand and Greg Davies join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Stephen Fry to meander through miscellaneous marriage and mating matters.  
**9.55 FILM: Papadopoulos & Sons (2012).** Premiere. A Greek millionaire loses everything in a financial crisis, and is forced to help his brother run a fish and chip shop. Comedy, with Stephen Dillane and Georgia Groome.  
**11.40 Snooker: UK Championship.** Action from the second round at the Barbican Centre in York, where the matches were played over the best of 11 frames.  
**12.30 Snooker: UK Championship Extra.** Hazel Irvine introduces extended highlights from one of today's matches at the Barbican Centre in York, where the second round got under way.  
**2.30 This Is BBC2.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.  
**5.45 The A to Z of TV Gardening.** Carol Kirkwood continues her alphabetical journey through the world of horticulture. (R)

**ITV**

- 6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street 6.10 Bottom Knockers Street 6.25 Bottom Knockers Street 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.05 Oddbods 7.10 Sooty 7.25 Super 4 7.40 Adventure Time 8.00 Marvel Avengers Assemble 8.30 Thunderbirds Are Go 9.00 Jessie**  
**9.25 ITV News.**  
**9.30 Murder, She Wrote.** A deputy's wife is murdered. (R)  
**10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)  
**11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)  
**12.30 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**  
**12.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)  
**1.45 Judge Rinder.** Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)  
**2.45 Doc Martin.** Louisa faces off with love rival Carrie. (R)  
**3.45 Midsomer Murders.** Barnaby and Troy investigate the murder of a wealthy landowner's wife, only to find the corpses mounting up as their inquiries lead them along a trail of blackmail and revenge. (R)  
**5.45 ITV News Central; Weather.**  
**6.00 ITV News and Weather.**  
**6.15 Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.  
**7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Bradley Walsh invites Sally Phillips, Rick Wakeman, Jenny Jones and Alistair McGowan to take part in another star-studded edition of the quiz show.  
**8.00 The X Factor.** The remaining contestants face the fifth round of live performances, as Simon Cowell, Nick Grimshaw, Rita Ora and Cheryl Fernandez-Versini seek to whittle the numbers down further.  
**9.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** Ant and Dec present the celebrity challenge, as the famous faces continue their ordeal in the Australian jungle.  
**10.45 The Jonathan Ross Show.** Luther star Idris Elba joins Jonathan in the studio, along with Celebrity Juice host Keith Lemon, Hollywood actress Liv Tyler and wildlife documentary David Attenborough.  
**11.50 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**  
**12.05 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.  
**3.00 Show Me the Telly.** Chris Tarrant, Simon Gregson and Vanessa Feltz try to outsmart members of the public at TV trivia to win £3,000. (R)  
**3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

**Channel 4**

- 6.15 The King of Queens.** Doug turns the basement into a recreation room. (R)  
**6.40 The King of Queens.** Doug pretends to diet. (R)  
**7.05 Race of Champions 2015.** Highlights of day one of the event from The Stadium at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London.  
**8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra and Ray's privacy is invaded. (R)  
**8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray joins an American Civil War re-enactment society. (R)  
**9.00 The Morning Line.** Presented by Nick Luck and Rishi Persad.  
**10.00 Frasier.** Everyone is feeling grumpy on Martin's birthday. (R)  
**10.30 Frasier.** A new manager joins the radio station. (R)  
**11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** Howard finds out that he has a half-brother.  
**11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** Penny contemplates returning to acting.  
**11.55 The Simpsons.** Bart decides to steal a kiss from a girl at school. (R)  
**12.30 The Simpsons.** Homer strikes up a friendship with Chief Wiggum. (R)  
**1.00 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Newbury and Newcastle.  
**4.00 Come Dine with Me.** Claire Flatt hosts the first party in Ipswich. (R)  
**4.30 Come Dine with Me.** Kerrie Pankhurst hosts the second dinner party in Ipswich. (R)  
**5.00 Come Dine with Me.** Magician David J Marks hosts the third dinner party in Ipswich. (R)  
**5.30 Come Dine with Me.** DJ Dave James hosts the fourth dinner party from Ipswich. (R)  
**6.00 Come Dine with Me.** Speed-dating expert Nikki Yucel hosts the final dinner party in Ipswich, and Kerrie Pankhurst reveals her feelings for another diner before the winner is announced. (R)  
**6.30 Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00 The World's Weirdest Weather.** Examining strange weather events, including cities buried in snow, plagues of locusts, and changes in temperature that boil lakes and freeze frogs.  
**8.00 Grand Designs: House of the Year.** Kevin McCloud visits three more houses competing for a place on the finalist shortlist, before announcing the overall winner of the Riba House of the Year 2015. Last in the series. (R)  
**9.00 FILM: 2 Guns (2013).** Premiere. Two undercover agents become fugitives after a disastrous sting, but each thinks the other is a real criminal. Action adventure, with Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg.  
**11.10 TFI Friday.** Chris Evans hosts the lively entertainment show mixing music and chat with stunts and skits, featuring guests Ronnie Wood, Ellie Goulding, the Vamps, Wolf Alice and Jamie Lawson. (R)  
**12.15 FILM: Easy A (2010).** Teen comedy, starring Emma Stone.  
**2.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man.** (R)  
**2.55 Fargo.** (R)  
**3.50 Hollyoaks.** (R)  
**5.55 Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** (R)

**Channel 5**

- 6.00 Milkshake!** Peppa Pig **6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas** **6.15 Bob the Builder** **6.30 Tickety Toc** **6.40 Zack and Quack** **6.50 Milkshake! Monkey** **6.55 Make Way for Noddy** **7.05 Paw Patrol** **7.20 Little Princess** **7.30 Pip Ahoy!** **7.50 Blaze and the Monster Machines** **8.10 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom** **8.25 Wanda and the Alien** **8.40 Toby's Travelling Circus**  
**8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** Shredder's new henchmen, Bebop and Rocksteady, attack the turtles.  
**9.30 The Saturday Show.** Matt Barbet and Gaby Roslin present the topical show with three celebrity guests.  
**11.40 FILM: Annie Claus Is Coming to Town (2011).** Christmas fantasy, starring Maria Thayer.  
**1.30 FILM: The Christmas Shepherd (2014).** Drama, starring Teri Polo.  
**3.20 FILM: Finding Mrs Claus (2012).** Premiere. Comedy, starring Mira Sorvino.  
**5.10 FILM: Christmas in Conway (2013).** Premiere. Festive romantic drama, starring Andy Garcia.  
**7.00 5 News Weekend.**  
**7.05 Police Interceptors: Under Attack.** Footage of members of the unit coming under attack while trying to keep the bad guys off the streets, from axe-wielding criminals to thugs who are handy with their fists. (R)  
**8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Agents Delroy and Kevin face a web of deceit in an Italian delicatessen, while Steve and Paul must evict a tenant who has not paid her rent for over 18 months. (R)  
**9.00 Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Huddersfield Town v Middlesbrough.  
**10.20 TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks.** A countdown of illusions that have stood the test of time on the small screen, featuring Penn and Teller, Derren Brown, David Blaine, Paul Daniels and Dynamo. (R)  
**1.05 The Gadget Show.** Jon Bentley explores the latest technology for the home, while Jason Bradbury and Amy Williams have the aid of a special backpack when they take part in a race across Cheddar Gorge. (R)  
**1.55 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.  
**3.10 Sepp Blatter Exposed: The Fall of FIFA.** The scandal that surrounds world football's governing body and its president. (R)  
**4.00 Gypsies on Benefits & Proud.** Documentary following a group of Roma moving to London. (R)  
**4.50 Make It Big.** Keren decides she has had enough. (R)  
**5.15 Make It Big.** A visit to a radio station ends badly. (R)  
**5.45 Angels of Jarm.** Angel Ellie helps Wendy to practise for school sports day. (R)





**Strictly Come Dancing: The Results**  
*7.20pm*  
Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal the results of last night's viewers' votes. The two lowest scoring couples must then compete in a dance-off, with judges Len Goodman, Darcy Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood deciding which couple is eliminated.



**The Secret History of the British Garden**  
*9pm*  
The extraordinary changes that occurred in the 19th century, as advances in technology made gardens more lavish, but also more widely available. Monty pays a visit to Queen Victoria's royal retreat at Osborne and Derby's Arboretum.



**The X Factor**  
*8pm*  
Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present the results of the viewers' votes. The two lowest scoring acts will be asked to compete against each other in a sing-off to impress judges Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Rita Ora and Nick Grimshaw, with the loser being eliminated from the contest.



**Homeland**  
*9pm*  
Carrie realises that she urgently needs Allison's help, while Quinn's plans undergo a significant change. Claire Danes, Miranda Otto, Rupert Friend, Sebastian Koch, Alexander Fehling, Sarah Sokolovic, F Murray Abraham, Mandy Patinkin star in the CIA thriller series.



**Deck the Halls**  
*5.15pm*  
A man's proud status as the neighbourhood's king of Christmas comes under threat when a newcomer broadcasts his intention to decorate his house with so many lights that they will be visible from space. Comedy, starring Danny DeVito, Matthew Broderick, Kristin Davis and Kristin Chenoweth.

BBC1	
6.00	<b>Breakfast.</b>
7.35	<b>Match of the Day.</b> Gary Lineker introduces highlights of the latest Premier League matches. (R)
9.00	<b>The Andrew Marr Show.</b>
10.00	<b>Fern Britton Meets Shane Lynch.</b> New series. The former Boyzone singer discusses how his faith has helped him to cope with the death of his bandmate Stephen Gately.
11.00	<b>Sunday Politics West Midlands.</b> The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.
12.10	<b>Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.</b> Suzi Perry presents coverage of the 19th and final round of the season from Yas Marina Circuit. (Start-time 1.00pm).
3.15	<b>Escape to the Country.</b> Highlights of the series from house-hunts in Somerset. Johnnie Irwin learns how to make Cheddar cheese and Jules Hudson checks out sand sculptures in Weston-Super-Mare.
4.15	<b>Songs of Praise.</b> John Craven visits Chatsworth House.
4.50	<b>The Hunt.</b> The hunting methods of aquatic predators. (R)
5.50	<b>BBC News.</b>
6.10	<b>Midlands Today; Weather.</b>
6.20	<b>Countryfile.</b> Artist Matt Sewell shows Ellie Harrison how he captures the character of birds, and John Craven visits a seed bank in Shropshire that is trying to preserve endangered trees. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.
7.20	<b>Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.</b> Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal the results of last night's votes, before the two lowest scoring pairs compete in a dance-off. Plus, a musical performance from Adam Lambert.
8.00	<b>Antiques Roadshow.</b> The team returns to Plas Newydd on the Isle of Anglesey, where items waiting to be valued include a Chinese punchbowl and a collection of historical items related to deafness.
9.00	<b>The Hunt.</b> Animals on the hunt in deserts and grasslands, where neither predator or prey has anywhere to hide. Featuring footage of cheetahs, eagles, lions, hot rod ants and headlight beetles.
10.00	<b>BBC News.</b>
10.20	<b>Midlands Today; Weather.</b>
10.30	<b>Match of the Day 2.</b> Mark Chapman introduces highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea at White Hart Lane and Norwich City v Arsenal at Carrow Road.
11.50	<b>Citizen Khan.</b> Mr Khan opens a fried chicken shop, having kept it secret from Mrs Khan, who invites him along to watch her tango class demonstration. (R)
12.20	<b>The Graham Norton Show.</b> Johnny Depp and Benedict Cumberbatch discuss their new mobster movie Black Mass, while Daniel Radcliffe and James McAvoy chat about their upcoming release Victor Frankenstein. (R)
1.05	<b>Weather for the Week Ahead.</b>
1.10	<b>BBC News.</b>

BBC2	
6.30	<b>Big Dreams Small Spaces.</b> Monty Don helps create gardens for people with little space. (R)
7.30	<b>Countryfile.</b> A woodland architecture school, using trees as building materials. (R)
8.30	<b>An Island Parish: Falklands.</b> The islanders receive an update on the oil exploration going on offshore. (R)
9.00	<b>Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.</b> Highlights of the series.
10.30	<b>Simply Nigella.</b> Recipes for dishes including Asian-flavoured short ribs and fish tacos. (R)
11.00	<b>My Life on a Plate.</b> Michael Buerk's culinary memories in Hereford; (R)
	<b>Weather for the Week Ahead.</b>
11.50	<b>Tennis: Davis Cup Final.</b> Belgium v Great Britain. Sue Barker presents coverage of the third and final day of the World Group's showpiece match, featuring the concluding singles rubbers in Ghent.
3.15	<b>Football: Women's Euro 2017 Qualifiers.</b> England v Bosnia and Herzegovina (Kick-off 3.30pm).
5.25	<b>Live Snooker: UK Championship.</b> The second round continues.
7.00	<b>Robert Peston Goes Shopping.</b> The history of the retail trade concludes with a look at how the high street has been hit hard in recent times by online shopping and the financial crash. Last in the series. (R)
8.00	<b>Ireland with Simon Reeve.</b> Part two of two. Simon visits Belfast for the July 12 Festivities, as well as exploring the Giant's Causeway, learning more about Cromwell, and attending the Gaze film festival.
9.00	<b>The Secret History of the British Garden.</b> The extraordinary changes that occurred in the 19th century, as technology made gardens more lavish and more widely available. Monty pays a visit to Queen Victoria's royal retreat.
10.00	<b>FILM: The Cider House Rules (1999).</b> A doctor's assistant living in the orphanage where he grew up sets out to see more of life, but faces difficult moral decisions. Drama, starring Tobey Maguire and Michael Caine.
12.00	<b>Snooker: UK Championship.</b> Highlights of the evening session from the Barbican Centre in York, where the second round in the prestigious ranking tournament was set to conclude.
12.50	<b>Snooker: UK Championship Extra.</b> Hazel Irvine presents extended highlights from today's matches at the Barbican Centre in York, where the second round was set to reach a climax.
2.50	<b>Sign Zone: Countryfile.</b> Matt Baker visits a woodland architecture school, where local trees are used as building materials, and Ellie Harrison meets the members of a very special countrymen's club. (R)
3.45	<b>Sign Zone: Holby City.</b> Ollie refuses to be belittled by Jac Naylor as she makes her return to Darwin. Meanwhile, Morven is drawn into an elderly couple's emotional case. (R)
4.45	<b>This Is BBC2.</b>

ITV	
6.00	<b>CITV: Bottom Kocker Street 6.10</b> Bottom Kocker Street <b>6.25</b> Bottom Kocker Street <b>6.35</b> Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures <b>6.50</b> Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures <b>7.00</b> Signed Stories: Share a Story <b>7.05</b> Oddbods <b>7.10</b> Sooty <b>7.25</b> Super 4 <b>7.40</b> Matt Hatter Chronicles <b>8.00</b> Marvel Avengers Assemble <b>8.30</b> Fish Hooks <b>8.45</b> Fish Hooks <b>9.00</b> Jessie
9.25	<b>Murder, She Wrote.</b> A Hollywood producer steals Jessica's work. (R)
10.20	<b>The Jeremy Kyle Show.</b> Guests air their differences. (R)
11.20	<b>The Jeremy Kyle Show.</b> Guests air their differences. (R)
12.25	<b>ITV News and Weather;</b> Weather.
12.30	<b>The Jeremy Kyle Show.</b> Guests air their differences. (R)
1.35	<b>The Chase.</b> Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
2.35	<b>The X Factor.</b> The remaining contestants face the fifth round of live performances, as Simon Cowell, Nick Grimshaw, Rita Ora and Cheryl Fernandez-Versini seek to whittle the numbers down further. (R)
4.20	<b>FILM: The Mummy Returns (2001).</b> Married explorers Rick and Evelyn battle to rescue their son from the newly resurrected Egyptian mummy Imhotep. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Brendan Fraser and Rachel Weisz.
6.35	<b>ITV News Central;</b> Weather.
6.45	<b>ITV News and Weather.</b>
7.00	<b>Jekyll and Hyde.</b> Robert and Max investigate a series of murders believed to be the work of a legendary demonic dog – but discover there is a connection between the case and Tenebrae.
8.00	<b>The X Factor.</b> Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present the results of the viewers' vote, before the two lowest scoring acts compete to decide who will be going through to the semi final.
9.00	<b>I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!</b> Ant and Dec present as the second week of the celebrity challenge draws to a close, as the famous faces continue their ordeal in the Australian jungle.
10.30	<b>ITV News and Weather;</b> Weather.
10.45	<b>Off Their Rockers.</b> Royston invents the ultimate mobile phone case, Paul tests out the world's most powerful leaf blower, and Seb steals flowers from a funeral. (R)
11.15	<b>Premiership Rugby Union.</b> Action from the latest round of fixtures in England's top flight, including Northampton Saints v Gloucester, Saracens v Worcester Warriors and Leicester Tigers v Bath.
12.15	<b>Jackpot247.</b> Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	<b>Motorsport UK.</b> Action from Silverstone, featuring the Renault Clio Cup and Porsche Carrera Cup. Commentary by Richard John Neil.
3.50	<b>ITV Nightscreen.</b> Text-based information service.
5.05	<b>The Jeremy Kyle Show.</b> The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues. (R)

Channel 4	
6.00	<b>Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites.</b> Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall cooks using honey, walnuts and filo pastry. (R)
6.05	<b>The King of Queens.</b> Doug worries he might be losing touch with Carrie. (R)
6.25	<b>The King of Queens.</b> Carrie tells Doug a secret about Marie. (R)
6.45	<b>Race of Champions 2015.</b> Highlights of day two of the event from The Stadium at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London.
7.40	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Ally researches the family tree. (R)
8.00	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Marie's meatballs leave Debra in a stew. (R)
8.30	<b>Frasier.</b> The Crane brothers set up practice together. (R)
9.00	<b>Frasier.</b> The Cranes mourn the death of a relative. (R)
9.30	<b>Sunday Brunch.</b> With Jason Donovan.
12.30	<b>The Big Bang Theory.</b> Sheldon looks for a way out of his relationship. (R)
12.55	<b>The Big Bang Theory.</b> Raj's sister creates tension between the guys. (R)
1.20	<b>The Big Bang Theory.</b> Leonard vows to be more confident around women. (R)
1.45	<b>The Simpsons.</b> Lisa embraces her creative side at a performing arts camp. (R)
2.20	<b>Emergency Animal Hospital.</b> Featuring a pug with a spinal deformity.
3.20	<b>FILM: Parental Guidance (2012).</b> Premiere. Comedy, with Billy Crystal and Bette Midler.
5.25	<b>FILM: Sister Act (1992).</b> Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg.
	<b>Channel 4 News.</b>
7.15	<b>Guy Martin: Last Flight of the Vulcan Bomber.</b> The mechanic joins a select crew of engineers working on the last functioning Vulcan bomber as the aircraft is taken on a farewell tour. With contributions from former crew members.
9.00	<b>Homeland.</b> While Carrie needs Allison's help, Quinn's plans change. Claire Danes, Miranda Otto, Rupert Friend and Sebastian Koch star.
10.05	<b>Gogglebox.</b> Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
11.10	<b>FILM: Bullet to the Head (2012).</b> A hitman and a police detective join forces to seek revenge on the man who murdered both their partners. Action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone, Sung Kang and Christian Slater.
12.50	<b>Grand Designs Australia.</b> A couple plans to build an English-style farmhouse in Queensland.
1.45	<b>Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners.</b> A man who cleans his kitchen twice a year. (R)
2.40	<b>Four in a Bed.</b> (R)
3.05	<b>Four in a Bed.</b> (R)
3.30	<b>Four in a Bed.</b> The owner of the Amber Guest House in Cleethorpes competes. (R)
4.00	<b>Four in a Bed.</b> (R)
4.25	<b>Four in a Bed.</b> (R)
4.55	<b>Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites.</b> (R)
5.10	<b>Deal or No Deal.</b> Beat-the-banker game show. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	<b>Milkshake!</b> Peppa Pig <b>6.05</b> Bananas in Pyjamas <b>6.20</b> Bob the Builder <b>6.30</b> Tickety Toc <b>6.40</b> Zack and Quack <b>6.55</b> Roobarb and Custard Too <b>7.00</b> Make Way for Noddy <b>7.15</b> Paw Patrol <b>7.25</b> Little Princess <b>7.45</b> Pip Ahoy! <b>8.00</b> Blaze and the Monster Machines <b>8.25</b> Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom <b>8.40</b> Wanda and the Alien <b>9.00</b> Toby's Travelling Circus <b>9.15</b> Jelly Jamm <b>9.30</b> LazyTown
10.00	<b>Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.</b> Part one of two. The heroes face a rival team of mutants.
10.35	<b>Football League Tonight.</b> Highlights and all the goals from the Championship, League One and League Two. (R)
12.00	<b>Access.</b> Showbiz news and gossip. (R)
12.05	<b>FILM: Road to Christmas (2006).</b> Romantic comedy drama, starring Jennifer Grey and Clark Gрегг.
1.55	<b>FILM: The Heart of Christmas (2011).</b> Premiere. Drama, starring Candace Cameron Bure.
3.35	<b>FILM: The Little Mermaid (1989).</b> Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Jodi Benson.
5.15	<b>FILM: Deck the Halls (2006).</b> Christmas comedy, starring Danny DeVito and Matthew Broderick.
7.05	<b>Police Interceptors: Dog Squad.</b> A look at the police dog teams in the Cleveland and Durham specialist operations unit, observing the highly trained hounds and their handlers in training and in action. (R)
8.05	<b>Impractical Jokers US.</b> The guys pose as newspaper reporters getting public reactions to a fictional story, draw portraits of passers-by, queue jump at the theatre, and try to sell a bizarre flat.
8.30	<b>Impractical Jokers US.</b> The guys work in a bakery, where they must eat customers' cakes and challenge them to eating contests. The loser then has to pose as an avant garde artist.
8.55	<b>5 News Weekend.</b>
9.00	<b>FILM: Gran Torino (2008).</b> A misanthropic Korean War veteran is drawn into protecting a teenager and his family from a street gang. Drama, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. With Christopher Carley.
11.25	<b>FILM: Justice (2011).</b> A man is approached by vigilantes after his wife is attacked, but learns the price for their help is that he must kill someone. Thriller, with Nicolas Cage and January Jones.
1.15	<b>SuperCasino.</b> Live interactive gaming.
3.10	<b>Ultimate Police Interceptors.</b> Highlights of the documentary. (R)
4.00	<b>House Doctor.</b> A bland property near Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. (R)
4.25	<b>Make It Big.</b> The team is under intense pressure to sell tickets. (R)
4.50	<b>Make It Big.</b> The children begin their final week. (R)
5.15	<b>Make It Big.</b> The team races to sell more tickets. (R)
5.45	<b>Angels of Jarm.</b> (R)
5.50	<b>Angels of Jarm.</b> The children play volleyball. (R)



# Keep nature and carry on

AS recent events have shown, our species is capable of some truly repulsive stupidity.

I've tried to make the point before that such acts are not just sub human, they are sub-animal (and plant for that matter!)

No animal wantonly destroys its own species to such an extent that ours can and does.

So what could be more appropriate to cheer us up and lighten our gloom than the natural world? The beginning of winter 'proper' is now upon us. Temperatures have nose-dived in recent days and it can be difficult to imagine there is much going on out there worth seeking out. Well, there is and it comes in a myriad of forms.

Blue tits, great tits and wrens can be seen flitting round the garden, trying to weed out the odd spider or insect from its winter hiding place. The flocks of fieldfares and redwings are now a common sight and you may get lucky with a waxwing or two. Our resident thrushes are perhaps best viewed now. The mistle thrush, song thrush and blackbird all stand out in, respectively, due to their size, song and colour.

Badgers and foxes can be seen in their attempts to eke out a living over frozen ground. Rabbits are always present and when the snow falls their presence is clearly evident. Shrews, mice and voles have a very hard time of things yet have no choice but to try. These species see a huge drop in numbers, with just enough locally to allow their rebound in spring.

Kingfishers and others often 'migrate' downstream in order to find larger, ice-free

## ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



stretches of rivers and estuaries but some will hang on in their chosen territories to have bragging rights come spring and indeed if they do, they can be more easily seen now with the loss of vegetation. Over wetlands wigeon, teal, tufted duck, pintail and shovellers are particularly abundant and lapwings begin to flock in large numbers.

Many of these birds are bolstered by winter migrants from the continent. Species such as the beautiful snipe are a good example with our own populations and the continental ones meaning there is never a better time to see this bird.

Clouds of male gnats, with their anti-freeze-like blood, dance in the evenings and even such legendary plants as the hart's tongue fern, old man's beard, spindle-tree, teasel and scarlet pimpernel can easily be found locally.

As I was listening to a report of the Paris attacks that Friday evening whilst driving home, my headlights suddenly illuminated a superb barn owl, hovering over the hedge.

It was angelically white, a silent, ghostly presence; yet a peaceful one.

Trying to scrape an existence for itself and its species.

The phrase that's so often toted in times of strife is 'carry on'.

Well boy is nature carrying on in winter. Visit [benwaddams.com](http://benwaddams.com)



In Anticipation – by Ben Waddams

# Reduction in art funds inevitable says councillor

A REDUCTION in council grants for arts organisations is inevitable because of cuts in Government funding, a leading councillor has warned.

Shropshire Council has come under fire for proposals to save £58,460 on its arts budget.

The council uses the budget to put on events and also provides £64,000 of grant funding and additional funding for an arts development officer.

But Steve Charmley, Shropshire Council's cabinet member for business and culture, says that "minimal levels of central government funding" mean that organisations need to be self reliant.

He said: "Shropshire Council recognises the important role that the arts play in making Shropshire a great place to live, work and visit, and their significant role in the economic, educational and cultural well-being of the county."

"However, the council is responding to both the current and future financial challenges the public sector is facing by redesigning everything we do. This is to help make the county as resilient and self-reliant as possible, realistically anticipating a near-future in which minimal levels of central government funding are available to underpin public services."

Supporters of the Arts Revenue Grant say that it helps to raise more than £1 million for the Shropshire economy by attracting extra visitors, figures that have been confirmed by the council.

An online petition calling for plans to cut the grant to be shelved has been backed by nearly 2,000 people.

The petition was launched in October by Mike Layward, artistic director of Shrewsbury-based group Disability Arts in Shropshire, and attracted 800 supporters within its first 24 hours.

Councillor Charmley said the authority has been discussing its proposals with arts groups and expects to consider recommendations early next month.

He said: "As part of this process the council will be changing the way it supports the arts sector and the arts development officer role. The arts development service currently has one full time arts development officer. During 2015/16 the council has awarded £46,900 through the revenue client grant scheme to arts organisations/venues and arts festivals across the county, who deliver a high-quality, regular programme of arts activity. The grants awarded have ranged from £500 to £8,000."



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## deaths

## ASHTON

**Ernest William Sheldon  
(Bill)**

Of Woodland Residential Home, Morda, formerly of Morda Close, Oswestry. Passed away peacefully on November 12, 2015, aged 96 years. Beloved Husband of the late Ruth, much loved Father of Robert, Helen and Nick and a loving Grandfather and Great-Grandfather.

Funeral Service at St Oswald's Parish Church, Oswestry, on Tuesday, December 1, at 2pm, followed by Cremation at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Salvation Army.

All inquiries to  
**DAVID DAVIES & SONS**  
1 Upper Church Street  
Oswestry  
Telephone 01691 653116.

**EVANS  
Matty  
(Tahira)**

Passed away at the Severn Hospice, Shrewsbury, on November 7, 2015, aged 58 years. Sadly missed by all who knew her.

Funeral Service at St Myllin's Parish Church, Llanfyllin, on Thursday, December 3, at 11.30am, followed by Interment at Llanfyllin Cemetery.

Dress code, whatever you want, you knew Matty. Wales Rugby shirts welcome.

Family flowers only.  
Donations if desired to UNICEF.

All inquiries to  
**DAVID DAVIES & SONS**  
1 Upper Church Street  
Oswestry  
Telephone 01691 653116.

**FLEET  
Tony**

Passed away peacefully on November 3, 2015. Much loved Husband of Olwen, Dad of Mark and Robert and a loving Grandad.

Funeral Service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury on Monday, November 30, at 10.45am.

Family flowers only.  
Donations if desired to Cancer Research UK.

All inquiries to  
**DAVID DAVIES & SONS**  
1 Upper Church Street  
Oswestry  
Telephone 01691 653116.

## GREEN

## Walter

Of Shrewsbury. Beloved Husband of Ming, Father to Jeremy and Nigel, Brother of Susan, died at the Severn Hospice, after a short illness borne with dignity and courage.

Walter has donated himself for medical research and so there will be no Funeral Ceremony.

Any messages or donations, which will support the Severn Hospice, can be forwarded to

**AUSREY KIRKHAM**  
Funeral Directors,  
Franklin Island,  
Shrewsbury.  
01743 368599

## KEELEY

## Heather

## nee Bebb

Beloved Wife of John, much loved Mum to Jennifer, Jane, Edward, Philip and Andrew, a cherished Nan, Sister of Tudor and the late Joy and Derek, a respected Aunt, Sister-in-law and a good Friend. Passed away after a long illness.

The Funeral Service will take place in St. Andrew's Church, Great Ness, on Tuesday, December 1, at 11am, followed by Interment in Great Ness Cemetery.

Family flowers only please, however all donations will support the Bethshan Nursing Home Residents Comforts Fund.

All inquiries please to

**AUSREY KIRKHAM**  
Funeral Directors,  
Franklin Island,  
Shrewsbury.  
01743 368599

**NICHOLSON  
Alice Mary  
(Grace)**

Passed away peacefully on November 13, 2015, after a short illness, aged 95 years. A much loved Mum, Gran and Big Gran.

Funeral Service at Pentrebychan Crematorium, Wrexham, on Monday, November 30, at 3pm.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to Sheldon Ward at The Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital.

All inquiries to  
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Motoring

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Classic run in spider

I BROKE the most valuable Skoda in the world (it's insured for £250,000) before it had moved a single inch. Talk about feeling a proper idiot.

Still, at least I'd managed to sit in the cockpit of the car; a gorgeous looking open two-seater designed more for racing lightness than six-footers with size 12 feet.

And, while a pair of cheerful mechanics worked away under the bonnet to re-attach the throttle cable dislodged by an over-enthusiastic right foot prod, I had time to glance over this miniature masterpiece, from a chassis made of masses of tubes to a skimpy body looking like a 1950's school-boy doodle of the perfect racing car.

For anyone who thinks Skoda has only ever made road cars with an emphasis on value, here is evidence that deep in the psyche of the Czech company once burned a desire to win on the track.

So, back in 1957 it unleashed a couple of fibreglass-bodied roadsters in a racing programme that took them to modest successes on the other side of what was then a very heavy Iron Curtain.

Now, the one remaining Spider in running condition (and fresh from a £30,000 engine rebuild in the UK, where it now lives) is being used to punch home the message that Skoda has been around a long time, in one form or another.

Since 1895, to be precise, when a couple of keen cyclists began designing and building two-wheelers called Slavias, adding motors four years later and becoming Laurin and Klement (their surnames). The first car appeared in the early 1900s and then, in a merger in 1925, Skoda arrived.

Older readers will recall model names like



Felicia and Favorit, attached to machines that lacked the panache of Western rivals, but were cheap to buy and run, and tough with it.

Then, in 1991 Skoda became the fourth brand in the Volkswagen group and it began quickly to lose the budget tag, replaced with cars that happily pinched bits from dearer VWs to produce machines that were now properly modern and good value.

But back to the Skoda Spider, now mended and revving its little 1,098cc engine in prospect of a visit to the modest race track provided for us at Bicester Heritage, carved from 348 acres of a former 1920's RAF bomber station.

Now, if barely a litre sounds puny, it's worth pointing out that the engine bears little relation to anything you would have found in a roadgoing Skoda of the time – as its 92 horsepower output and the Spider's 125mph top speed testify.

It's also light; at 550 kilos much less than the weight of a Harley Davidson motorbike with chunky rider aboard.

So, the car will fly if provoked. Which, with rain falling in enthusiastic amounts and the track awash, I was not keen to do. Especially as my spectacles lacked windscreen wipers and my big feet found it easier to operate two pedals at once rather than one.

Oh, and however hard you pressed the middle pedal, the drum brakes stayed asleep, only deigning to flicker an eyebrow of interest as your right thigh began to quiver with the effort of application.

It did make lovely noises, though, as I crunched up and down the gears (housed in a gearbox between the rear wheels) and persuaded the rev counter to flicker round to a figure that gave a gentle taste of the Spider's potential.

The steering was a positive delight, with the thin, string-wrapped wheel feeding back an accurate description of the tarmac below.

Which must have been welcome when the Spider was used in anger more than half a century ago. No seatbelts, of course. No roll cage, no bodywork (to speak of) and almost no brakes.

Miroslav Fousek and Jaroslav Bobek, the two men who took the pair of Spiders to a one-two in Leningrad in 1962, I salute you.

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15 Reg Skoda Superb, SE Auto 5dr HBK 2.0 Diesel, FSH, 8444mils, £30 RFL.....	£24,205	£8,210	£15,995

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# Marque focused on G57

By Sharon Walters

**Ginetta has proven itself as the manufacturer of the fastest LMP3 car in the world. Now the Yorkshire marque turns its attentions to a new-for-2016 car; the Ginetta G57.**

With a class first and second in the inaugural European Le Mans Series driver and teams championship, Ginetta has been the dominant force throughout the inaugural LMP3 season, taking a clean sweep of class victories.

A fantastic partnership between Ginetta, the ACO and ELMS throughout the development and delivery of the LMP3 class allowed all parties to make a success of the inaugural season, one which will undoubtedly continue into 2016. With its position as a rising star in sports prototypes cemented, the Yorkshire manufacturer now switches its

attention to the ongoing development of the new Ginetta G57.

Designed to increase export of the British brand, which already stands at circa 50 per cent of all sales, the Ginetta G57 represents a cost-effective prototype, eligible for sports car competition across the globe.

## Suited

With a view to complement the already established Ginetta formulae, which includes four single-make championships, a number of franchised European series in Italy and Sweden, plus a large presence in the USA with the Ginetta G55, the Ginetta Prototype will be suited to all levels of driver grade, experience and ambition.

Comprising a Chevrolet LS3 engine with 580bhp, the Ginetta G57 will offer a robust drivetrain, providing unrivalled performance with additional power and heightened value for money. In addition, the car will feature an unrestricted aerodynamic package, delivering some of the quickest lap times for cars of this genre.



**'Ginetta G57 represents a cost-effective prototype, eligible for sports car competition across the globe'**

Lawrence Tomlinson, chairman of Ginetta explained; "European Le Mans Series provided the perfect platform to further introduce the Ginetta brand to the European marketplace, and we worked closely with the ACO to ensure both the car and the series were a success.

"As a business, we must now continue towards our goal of increasing export, which inevitably means creating a new, and significantly faster, car which is eligible for competition on a number of different global platforms."

Ewan Baldry, Ginetta technical director added; "We've had a great season with ELMS, but Team LNT had only ever planned to contest one full season. For 2016, we will continue to support our customers who remain within the series, but as a manufacturer, our attentions now turn to the Ginetta G57."

The Ginetta Prototype has already been accepted for competition in VdeV and various open sports car championships. Team LNT also claimed a win and a second place in the previous two VdeV events.



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# Big and spacious SUV

By Graham Breeze

**Getting stuck in a car wash can be an embarrassing situation for any driver so you can just imagine how red-faced this seasoned motoring journalist was when the washers clamped down on the £60,000 BMW X5 test car.**

Luckily, and sheepishly, I was able to clamber out to seek help to be told the vehicle was probably too big, which was a surprise as the same car wash had previously dealt comfortably with Range Rovers and an Audi Q7.

It transpired that there was just an inch to spare each side of the drive-in guide rails and with a bit of jiggling around the situation was rescued.

But the incident highlighted just how big and spacious the seven-seat X5 is, something you don't really appreciate once on the open road.

BMW has found it difficult to compete in this sector where Range Rover, Audi and Porsche have strong footholds but the xDrive 40d M-Sport on test is a seriously efficient contender now and feels so secure on the road it's easy to forget you're in such a big SUV.

Set proudly on 19" double-spoke alloy wheels the X5 sets an imposing stance, and once behind the wheel you are soon made to feel at home, thanks to masses of steering and seat adjustment options with

superb vision all-round thanks to the high seating position.

It can sometimes take a week to get used to the dashboard controls when behind the wheel of a new vehicle but not in this case. Everything is just where you would expect it to be and the iDrive infotainment system is right up there with the very best in the business.

The X5 gets five seats as standard but the test car came as a seven-seater though you wouldn't get me travelling far as a rear-seat passenger.

## Opposition

There's just about enough room for a couple of small kids and the extra seating eats into your luggage space.

Fold the rear seats and the X5 reveals 620 litres of load space, drop the second row and there's an enormous 1,870 litres of room just waiting to be filled.

On-the-road the X5 is probably not as refined as some of the opposition out there. There's nothing significantly wrong with the drive, other than perhaps more wind noise than expected, but it lacks a little something to make it stand out in a competitive SUV sector.

You would probably expect the X5 to be a gas-guzzler but the test model had a few surprises to reveal. The 3.0litre twin-turbo straight six diesel was coupled to an incredibly smooth eight-speed automatic gearbox and produced 47.1mpg on the combined cycle.

That's very competitive in the SUV sec-



**All BMWs normally hold their price so you could expect to trade in well.**

tor, particularly when you consider there's 0-62mph in just under six seconds and CO2 emissions are only 158g/km.

Standard equipment in the test car included 19" alloys, automatic sport transmission, adaptive M-suspension, roof rails, electric door mirrors, sports seats, aluminium Hexagon interior trim, M steering wheel and aerodynamic body styling.

For that you would have to pay £55,765 but add a cold weather package, towbar, reversing camera, panoramic glass sunroof and third row seating and the cost leaps up to £60,795.

The good news is that all BMWs normally hold their price so you could expect to trade in well when it comes time to change again.

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## Motoring



# New Navara will be in showrooms from next January

Nissan has announced full pricing and specifications for the all-new NP300 Navara – the rugged, dependable and capable workhorse with crossover-style comfort and class-leading technology, which will propel the brand back to the top of the pick-up segment.

Available in Nissan showrooms nationwide from January 2016, the new model, which builds on Nissan's 80-year pick-up heritage, will be available in five distinct trim grades – Visia, Acenta, Acenta+, N-Connecta and Tekna – and will be priced from £18,376.

Customers of the all-new NP300 Navara will have the flexibility to tailor their vehicle so that it can meet the requirements of the toughest job or the most demanding of lifestyles. The pick-up can be specified with either a double cab or a king cab and a 190PS twin-turbo or 160PS single turbo version of the new 2.3-litre dCi engine.

There's also a choice of two or four-wheel drive and a six-speed manual or seven-speed automatic transmission.

Many of the new model's advanced safety features – including a number of first-in-class technologies – are incorporated across the range as standard. This includes forward emergency braking on all double cab models; driver, passenger, side, knee and curtain airbags; electronic limited slip differential (eLSD); hill start assist and hill descent control (on 4WD models).

### Appealing

Developed with the aim of delivering Nissan crossover-style comfort and refinement to the pick-up sector, even entry-level versions of the NP300 Navara are competitively specified with an appealing array of on-board equipment.

Visia models, for example, feature manual air conditioning (4WD), five-link rear suspension (DC), Bluetooth telephone integration, steering wheel-mounted audio controls, an AUX socket for MP3 connectivity, a USB port, three 12v sockets, automatic headlights with 'follow me home', cruise control and speed limiter (DC).

Step up into the Acenta, and customers will enjoy a number of styling enhancements, including 16in alloy wheels and chrome exterior trim, as well as the Nissan Intelligent Key system with engine start/stop button and a five-inch HD full colour TFT screen.

Acenta+ meanwhile, adds the more powerful 190PS 2.3-litre dCi engine, 18in alloy wheels, automatic air conditioning with dual-zone climate control, rear colour reversing camera (shown in the rear view mirror), side steps, electric folding heated door mirrors and rear privacy glass.

Moving up the range, the new N-Connecta trim grade puts entertainment to the fore, with the addition of the NissanConnect 2.0 7in touchscreen satellite navigation and entertainment system.

This incorporates features including DAB digital radio, a rear colour reversing camera, Bluetooth audio streaming, app integration and live traffic updates.

Topping the range, the Tekna – priced from £24,293 – adds Nissan's Around View Monitor, which uses cameras to give the driver a bird's eye view of the car, as well as rear parking sensors, leather seats with heated front seats, roof rails and LED headlights.

In addition, all models in the range benefit from a full manufacturer five-year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty – providing additional peace of mind as standard.





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Redditch.....	7	4	1	2	10	11
Market Drayton.....	7	3	1	3	11	22
Solihull B'field.....	8	3	0	5	10	29
Wolverhampton.....	7	2	1	4	11	22
Leamington.....	7	1	0	6	9	25
Droitwich Spa.....	8	3	0	5	14	17
Streeley.....	7	1	0	6	8	20

Bloxwich.....	8	1	0	7	3	27
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West Midlands 1						
	P	W	D	L	F	A
Finchfield.....	8	6	2	0	50	7
West Bromwich.....	7	4	2	1	18	7
Old Wulfrunians.....	4	4	2	1	18	11
Stone.....	7	4	1	2	25	13
Redditch.....	7	4	1	2	10	11
Market Drayton.....	7	3	1	3	11	22
Solihull B'field.....	8	3	0	5	10	29
Wolverhampton.....	7	2	1	4	11	22
Leamington.....	7	1	0	6	9	25
Droitwich Spa.....	8	3	0	5	14	17
Streety.....	7	1	0	6	8	20



# Llanfair suffer at hands of high fliers

LLANFAIR UNITED remain deep in Cymru Alliance basement danger after succumbing 4-0 to title challengers Cefn Druids despite putting in a determined display at the Rock.

The visitors looked determined, and also produced some of their best football of the season, but trailed at the interval to a strike from ex-Newtown and Caersws forward Steve Blenkinsop.

After the break, goals from Matt Holt (61), Robbie James (69) and Adam Hesp (90) sealed Druids' win, and a rather harsh scoreline on United.

The Druids dominated the ball and spurned a golden chance when keeper Lee Andrew saved well from Craig Whitfield's close range header.

Llanfair themselves managed to cause a few problems on the counter attack with Chris Gethin and James Davies missing a couple of half chances.

After 27 minutes, keeper Andrew was called into action again, making a smart save from a Holt effort.

Holt then hit the crossbar before Llanfair failed to clear a resulting corner, leaving Blenkinsop to smash the ball low into the net with a good finish from 18 yards.

Before the break, Andrew Hughes had a good opportunity when a poor Cefn Druids clearance left him with a clear shot at goal but his effort flew wide.

Alun Hughes and Luke Gethin were brought on at half time to replace Chris Gethin and Richard Ainsley, and soon after the restart, James Davies was presented with a good chance to equalise but his shot just went wide of the post.

Second placed Druids then doubled their lead after 61 minutes when Holt turned well before beating keeper Andrew with a neat finish.

The hosts then made it 3-0 soon as defender Robbie James headed in a long throw on 69 minutes.

James Davies then had a low effort well saved down to the keeper's right before Andrew Hughes was put through on goal only to be pulled back by a home defender who somehow escaped a foul and a possible red card.

Llanfair were then angered minutes later when a similar situation at the other end, led to Ryan Davies being sent off after accidentally bringing down an advancing Druids forward when the last man.

Davies was presented with Llanfair's best chance of the game in the 76th minute but his lob over the keeper bounced wide of the post.

The Druids then hit the post twice late on before Hesp made it 4-0 in the 90th minute to seal an emphatic win despite Llanfair's spirited efforts.

# Golf returns from your local club

**HAWKSTONE PARK**  
**Men's October Medal Division 1:** A Burdock 78-7=71; S Ractiffe 83-11=72; M Lewis-Wright 87-14=73. Division 2: S Harris 89-17=72; S Lock 92-26=73; M Shorman 93-23=76.  
**Seniors Stableford Division 1:** R Ellis 45pts off 12.4; K Kapur 39pts off 12.7; P Moorcroft 36pts off 15.6. Division 2: P Townsend 41pts off 17.9; R Toogood 36pts off 21.2; D Driver-de-Valle 36pts off 23.6.  
**Juniors October Medal:** T Bache 95-27=68; M Hughes 101-30=71; C Welch 92-11=81.

**HENLE PARK**  
**November Stableford Division 1:** K Wynn 36pts; J Phillips 37pts; G Edwards 34pts. Division 2: S Roberts 38pts; R Grindley 36pts; G Peate 36pts.  
**Ladies Stableford:** K Gleave 31pts; S Meehan 30; P Pattersall 28 (c/b).  
**Seniors' Individual Stableford:** T Telford 36pts; F Thomas 38 (c/b); H Jones 38.

**OSWESTRY**  
**Men's November Winter Open:** S Hendy & C Dutton 42pts (c/b); S Griffiths & J Stirling 42pts; D Willmott & D Bishop 41pts; P Fell & M Eaton 40pts; D Gerard & D Finlay 39pts (c/b); K Edwards & B Harries 39pts (c/b).  
**Canadian Greensomes Medal:** A Allen & A Gilbert 62; M Knapper & N Kershaw 63.4; G Huggie & S Hawkey 66.2.  
**Ladies Draw for Partners - AM-AM Stableford 15 Holes:** R Wigley, K Jones, J Edwards 55pts; A Davies, Sylvia Baxter, Tess Hyde 52pts.  
**9 Holes:** V Challenger, B Humphreys, B Fone 37pts.

**THE BROW**  
**Christmas Competition No 2:** B Stuttard 36pts; K Abbott 35; T Williams 34.

# Wide boy Mullan wings in for TNS win

JAMIE Mullan winged in with the winner as high-fliers The New Saints opened up a commanding 11 point lead at the top of the Dafabet Welsh Premier with a 1-0 victory at Port Talbot.

Just 10 minutes after appearing as a second half substitute, wide man Mullan finally broke the deadlock in the 68th minute when drilling a low shot through a crowd of players and into the net.

The Saints have now won their last six visits to GenQuip Stadium, but it was tough going in a scrappy encounter of few chances, although Alex Darlington also crashed a volley against the post.

Victory stretched the leaders' unbeaten run to 19 games in all competitions this season, 16 of those in the league, and further tightened their grip on the Welsh Premier title chase.

The defending champions were well worth the victory, but were made to work hard by the Steelmen who are a far stronger defensive unit these days following the arrival of former Swansea City defender Alan Tate.

Port Talbot finished with 10 men after having Kurtis March sent off four minutes from time for his second booking, while TNS keeper Paul Harrison was called into an important save late on to ensure his side returned with the points.

Chances were in short supply in a dour first half, Chris Seargeant driving a free kick straight at keeper Steven Cann, while also failing to capitalise with another free kick in a dangerous position.

The second half continued in similar vein, although Saints defender Kai Edwards was forced to clear a dangerous situation following a good spell by the home side.

However, it was the visitors who looked the more threatening, and went close to an opening goal when Darlington rattled the post with a terrific volley.

It was Darlington's replacement Mullan who finally found a way through, while the Saints went close to a second when Tate cleared a dangerous cross from sub Scott Quigley in the latter stages.

It was the perfect response after dropping two points in their last home action against Rhyl who clawed their way back from a two goal deficit to finish 2-2 at Park Hall.

Striker Mike Wilde – who scored in the 3-1 home win over Port Talbot earlier in the season – must wait for his 150th Welsh Premier goal.

# Red-hot Cook fires up Guils with treble

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

**JAKE Cook served up a hat-trick for a second week running as Guilsfield stayed hard on the heels of the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance leaders with a storming 6-3 victory at Buckley Town.**

After netting three times in a losing cause in the Huws Gray Cup exit to Prestatyn Town the week before, Cook was again on the mark to secure a precious three points.

He scored twice in the first 16 minutes, and completed his treble midway through the second half, while Aaron Edwards (40), Jack Richards (44) and Adam Jenkins (76) also found the net as the chances flowed.

Buckley started well, and matched their visitors early on with Lee Davey twice putting them ahead from slack defending, but the Guils then surged ahead before Jon Taylor netted a consolation.

The home side's cause was not helped when ex-TNS defender Tommy Holmes picked up a red card in the first half, but they could not handle Guilsfield's attacking threat on the break, with midfielder Cook going from strength to strength.

The first half saw six goals due to a combination of poor defending by both sides and also good attacking play.

Buckley took the lead on four minutes after a James Henderson back pass failed to reach keeper Dave Littleford and the ball was tapped into the empty net by Davey.

Guilsfield equalised on 10 minutes after Chris Cathrall was given freedom to waltz through the Buckley midfield and find Cook on the edge of the box to rifle home a low drive.

The lead lasted two minutes as Davey regained the advantage before Cook curled an excellent shot into the corner of the net.

The Guils should have taken the lead on 24 minutes but for Ben Jones in the home goal who pulled off three goal line clearances in a mad minute, while Sam Litchfield found the net on 28 minutes but his effort was ruled out for offside.

**Rebounded**

The crazy half continued with Buckley's Holmes shown the red card on 39 minutes for bringing down Cook on the edge of the box when clean through on goal.

The resulting free kick was deflected away for a corner which found Aaron Edwards on the far post to squeeze home off a Buckley defender.

The half finished with Jack Richards also finding the net after the keeper's save rebounded to the youngster to give the Guils a 4-2 interval lead.

The second half was mostly all Guilsfield but, with substitutions and positional changes made and Buckley keeper Jones in fine form, the visitors were restricted to just two more goals.

Cook completed his hat-trick with a neat chip, and Jenkins fired home on 76 minutes, before Buckley had the final say with a consolation goal through Taylor eight minutes from time.

The losing run goes on for Caersws who were edged out 1-0 at title chasing Prestatyn Town who took the points courtesy of a harsh penalty.

The Bluebirds were stung by a handball decision against Graham Evans in the first half, Chris Davies converting from the spot, which proved enough to settle the encounter.

But the Mid Wales visitors could take plenty of heart form another spirited display against the title favourites, often creating the better chances, but defeat keeps them one point adrift at the foot of the table.

**Saturday's fixtures**

**Huws Gray Cymru Alliance:** Buckley Town v Porthmadog, Caersws v Mold Alex, Conwy Borough v Rhayader Town, Flint Town Utd v Cefn Druids, Gresford Ath v Prestatyn Town, Guilsfield v Holyhead Hotspur, Llanfair United v Caernarfon Town.

## FC Oswestry topping the table



Guy Guilford sets up a chance for FC Oswestry and (below) Chris Bishop firing home. Pics: Ian Jones.

**HIGH-FLYING** FC Oswestry Town took over pole position in the Mercian Regional League premier division courtesy of a 7-0 hammering of Prees with hat-tricks from Al Morris and top scorer Chris Bishop.

Their latest blitz was enough to see them leapfrog joint leaders Allscott on goal difference despite their title rivals winning 5-0 at Madeley Sports.

Looking to continue their good run of form in cold conditions at Prees, Town once again started brightly and came very close in the first five minutes when the home keeper made a fine save from winger Cal Williams.

But the breakthrough soon came in the seventh minute when the home keeper gifted the ball to Bishop who fired straight back past him from 30 yards.

Then, eight minutes later, Paul Bache picked out centre back Morris who smashed home from close range at the back post.

Town were now in total control, playing great football and, on 35minutes, they were awarded a free kick wide right and a sweet delivery from Cal Williams saw Morris's thumping header make in 3-0.

Two minutes later, Town were awarded a free kick wide left, again, Williams' delivery was headed home by Morris to complete his hat-trick.

The visitors were not finished yet and Bishop got his second when sweeping the ball home at the back post after a fine cross by Bache.

Then, on the stroke of half time, they got their sixth goal when Rob Shone fired home from 15 yards after a poor clearance from a corner.

The second half saw Town start with intent and in the 49th minute Morris picked out Bishop who fired in to the bottom corner to complete his hat-trick.

Although there were plenty of chances in the remainder of the game, there no more goals, but the win took Town top of the table on goal difference, although Allscott have one game in hand.

Town's next game will be Friday evening when they take on Childs Ercall at Park Hall with an 8.15pm kick off.

Mid-table Gobowen Celtic finished 4-4 at Bishop's Castle in division one while St Martins reserves notched their fourth victory of the campaign in division two after winning 3-2 at Craven Arms.



# ‘Offside’ goal stands and Ladies are fuming

HANNAH Brown's double strike proved to no avail as The New Saints Ladies Reserves suffered a controversial 4-3 loss to Staffordshire Women's League division one leaders Kidsgrove Athletic Ladies.

The Saints took the lead after 14 minutes when Brown scored her first goal of the season for the club, before adding a second when tapping home the rebound after Maddie Jones' shot was saved.

The Saints looked in full control until a momentary laps allowed Kidsgrove back into the game before half-time.

The second half would prove much the same as the first, with Maddie Jones fired home to give the Saints their two goal cushion before Kidsgrove got back into the game once again, this time through a long range effort.

The visitors then levelled in controversial circumstances when a through ball saw the Kidsgrove player slot past Toran Kelly despite the linesman's flag being raised for an offside.

After a lengthy discussion the decision was made to allow the goal to stand, much to the disgust of the Shropshire side.

The decision would prove the turning point of the game with Kidsgrove snatching the winning goal with minutes remaining.

**Effort**

After the game reserves manager Ben Richards commented: "It was a fantastic effort by all the ladies today, but unfortunately in football you don't always get what you put in."

The Saints reserves must pick themselves up when they face Leek CSOB away on Sunday while the first team – without any action last weekend – travel to Kingshurst Sporting in the West Midlands League premier division.

Meanwhile, Beckie Brown's brace was enough to give the TNS Ladies under-18s a 2-0 verdict against Stourbridge Juniors, while the under-16s were locked in a goalless draw with Coundon Court Girls.

The under-14s hit the goal trail as they swept aside Oswestry Boys Club Girls 5-0 with Harriet Davies and Faye Marshall both scoring twice, and Courtney Ashworth getting the other.

Two goals apiece from Sioned Roberts and Olivia Henderson helped the under-12s to an 8-3 success at Newport Girls, with Lois Rathe, Mia Kaye, Seren Roberts and Emma Williams also on target.

# Quigley can't wait for TNS cup final date

SCOTT Quigley is relishing another the chance to make his mark in a Word Cup final in the New Year.

On his return from a three match ban, The New Saints forward scored twice to help the holders overcome Carmarthen Town 4-1 in a wind-swept semi-final at Park Hall last week.

Awaiting the Saints in the final in January are surprise package Denbigh Town of the Cymru Alliance, who knocked out three Welsh Premier sides, including gap Connah's Quay 1-0 in the semi-final.

For Quigley, it's another opportunity to impress on the cup stage, after scoring twice in last year's 3-0 final victory over Bala Town at Newtown.

"It's great to be in another final and I am looking forward to it," said the front runner.

"Last season's Word Cup final was great for me because I scored two goals and also got the man of the match award, so that is my aim again."

"It was frustrating being out of the team after getting suspended, but I have to learn from that and I'm delighted to be back in the side and back with a couple of goals."



## Bailey the hat-trick hero for St Martins

KARL Bailey returned to goalkeeping form with a hat-trick as St Martins moved up to fourth in the West Midlands League division one with a 4-1 home success over Wrens Nest.

Their visitors have often proved troublesome opponents, but were well beaten at Park Hall by the Saints who now look for a third win at the bounce when they head to lowly Penncroft on Saturday.

Leading the way was last season's top scorer Bailey who scored three times to end a lean spell, the striker completing his hat-trick and a terrific all round display four minutes into injury time.

The Saints sounded their intentions early on against a side lying just below them in the table, with Bailey crossing to Dan Graham whose headed effort towards the far corner was superbly saved by impressive keeper Aaron Morris.

Dean Graham then crashed a shot just wide from the edge of the box, Sam Thomas was also narrowly off target with a couple of efforts from 20 yards while Bailey hit the post after being put through by Callum Bennett.

Bailey, however, was not to be denied moments later when opening his account on 21 minutes before seeing another effort tipped onto the upright by the keeper.

Wrens Nest were largely restricted to long range efforts but came out for the second half with renewed purpose as they levelled through Alistair Brown's header on 51 minutes. But the Saints were in no mood to relinquish their grip as they restored their lead on the hour when Bailey crossed for Dan Graham to convert.

Sam Thomas then set up Bailey to make it 3-1 on 75 minutes before the striker sealed his hat-trick deep in injury time from Sam Nash's pass following a breakaway,

## Morda show steel to book cup passage

A GOAL each from strike partners Harry Davies and George Turner proved just enough to see Morda United through to the third round of the Emrys Morgan Cup with a 2-1 passage at Waterloo Rovers reserves.

Waterloo battled to the end but narrowly failed add to Andy Gwilt's first half equaliser as the Weston Road side kept their flag flying in the competition.

Rovers showed their mettle from the start when a menacing cross from Oliver Davies passed to safety across the visitors goal.

In an open game, Will Bristow and George Turner then went close for Morda while at the other end impressive striker Andy Gwilt appeared about to score for Waterloo until Josh Thomas miraculously appeared to save after a defensive lapse.

Morda then took the lead on the half hour with a superb long range lob from Harry Davies, while Gwilt soon had the ball in the net for the Welshpool hosts only to be denied by an accurate offside flag.

However, he was not to be denied five minutes before the break when he rose unmarked to head home a pinpoint cross from Mark Procter.

The Weston Road side hit back instantly when a Kyle Wilson free kick was not cleared and the alert Turner was on hand to tap home.

Waterloo took the game to Morda after the interval and it needed a fine defensive header from Mike Jones and another one off the line by Danny Owen to keep the Rovers at bay.

The visitors' best efforts came from Nathan Richards and Will Bristow, but, despite a few scares in the Morda goalmouth, Colin Turner's men held firm to secure victory.

Morda's reward for this win is a journey to Dolgellau in the third round on Saturday. The club is considering running a coach to the game and further details are available from the secretary Rob Drury on 01691 652124.

# Hockey ladies need change in luck

LADY luck again deserted Oswestry who slipped to a 4-1 defeat to title chasing Warrington as their losing run continued in the Cheshire Women's Hockey League division two.

For the second Saturday in a row, they were facing a team at the top of the table, with Warrington starting the day in second spot behind the previous week's opposition, Chester.

Unfortunately, after their strong performance of the previous week, Oswestry had to travel with a reduced squad, while the weather was also much colder, especially on the exposed Warrington pitch.

A number of supporters braved the elements as they turned out to make their presence known, but on the pitch the visitors were unable to match the

level of performance from the previous week.

A number of errors crept in across the pitch which served to allow Warrington to step up the pressure which saw them score first with a well worked goal.

This goal galvanised Oswestry who sought to reduce Warrington's level of possession, while they were also starting to fashion opportunities at the other end, although these were thwarted by a well marshalled Warrington defence.

The visitors started the second half more positively, seeking to close down the home players quickly when they were on the ball.

This saw them reduce Warrington's chances and gain more attacking presence themselves.

Despite this, it was the Cheshire side who struck

again when a double deflection from the short corner gave the keeper no chance of making a save.

Despite still errors in their play, Oswestry continued to fight and were able to pull a goal back thanks to some brilliant close stick skills.

A 2-1 scoreline would, in many ways, have been reflective of the game but Oswestry were unlucky to concede twice more in the dying minutes to give Warrington a rather flattering 4-1 win – first from a lapse in concentration and secondly from a well-worked short corner.

It was another week where luck seems to have deserted Oswestry who must look to raise their level of play when they face Crewe on Saturday at Ellesmere College as they seek to end their losing streak.

# Eagles fly high after Isle of Man victory

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

**ON-SONG Oswestry stepped up their title challenge in rugby's Cheshire South with a 36-20 bonus point victory at Isle of Man side Ramsey to stay hard on the heels of the leaders.**

The long trek across the water proved profitable as the high flying Eagles returned with the spoils, lifting them up to second and just three points adrift of leaders Manchester Medics with a game in hand.

The visitors soon made light of the journey on a perfect Ramsey pitch in bright and cold conditions as they started with strong attacking play.

Ramsey conceded a penalty straight away, and the dependable Fin Grogan kicked the ball in the corner to put the Manx men on the back foot.

From the resulting set play, scrum half Hamish Fuller passed out from the ruck and terrific interplay from the forwards drove their hosts back. Again quick ball from the ruck went through the hands of the backs to find Gaz Hughes, who skinned the home backs to speed over the line, with Grogan converting.

Ramsey, now with the crowd urging them on, looked to hit back, but again the sturdy defence of the Oswestry men held firm before a clearance from Luca Owen-Youens provided the visitors with a long range penalty which Grogan converted, the ball hitting the top of the bar before bouncing over.

Ramsey were up for the fight, though, and launched a stirring move right from the re-start, eventually prising open the defence to score a converted try to reduce the deficit to 10-7.

Play now started to get a bit fraught with Oswestry having a player sin-binned, and while down to 14 men, they conceded a penalty to allow the Manx hosts to level matters. Play remained tough and hard, Ramsey now receiving a yellow card to even the numbers, and Oswestry continued to produce some superb running rugby.

### Handling

An excellent offload to Jamie Luckett saw him get close before being tackled into touch, but the Eagles were not to be denied as Zac Baldwin cut through the Ramsey defence to touch down, with Grogan converting for a 17-10 lead.

From the Ramsey kick off, the Eagles counter attacked with excellent handling between forwards and backs which saw Mike Davies run through the Manx defence before quick ball from Fuller to his forwards, saw an offload to Baldwin to go over for a fantastic team try, Grogan converting for a 24-10 half time lead.

Ramsey, roared on by their supporters, rallied after the break and pulled back a penalty, and continued to put the Eagles under pressure as they chased a second try. But the visitors are a tough nut to crack, and outstanding play from Owen-Youens saw him power his way through the Ramsey defence time and time again.

Oswestry were now on the Manx try line, only to be denied by the referee's whistle to allow Ramsey a breather.

However, the clearance kick failed to find touch, Owen Youens launching a powerful run to offload to his backs, another fine team move seeing Andy Merrett score a cracking try, this time going unconverted for a healthy 29-13 advantage.

Ramsey were not done and, after Os had made a few changes, found a way through for a converted touchdown to keep their hopes alive. But Oswestry clinched a fine bonus point win when they launched a swift riposte, Gaz Hughes catching a high kick before running from half way to score under the posts with Grogan converting.

■ Oswestry II remain in the lower reaches of the North West League division (fourth) south after losing 29-22 to Crewe and Nantwich III, while the thirds finished 12-12 with Linley in division five (sixth).

## COBRA see a bonus in defeat



Centre Harry Jukes is grounded by a Bala tackler, with fly-half Llew Williams looking on in support and (below) winger Richard Jones eludes a defender as COBRA go on the attack. Pics: Trevor Jones.



COBRA continue to prop up the foot of rugby's Swalec Welsh League division one (north) after a hard fought 17-10 reverse at Bala – but at least they picked up a losing bonus point for their efforts.

Despite the narrow defeat, they have now closed the gap to three points on their basement rivals Dolgellau, and face a crunch home encounter on Saturday against another of the lowly rivals Llangefni, who lie just two places above in the table.

The Meifod men could again take heart from their spirited performance against a strong Bala side who are unbeaten at home this season, but again struggled

to find the cutting edge when on top. Bala were in the ascendancy early on, their pressure carving a 5-0 lead with an unconverted try after a kick into the corner was pounced on by the winger.

Fly half Llew Williams went close to a reply at the other end when his penalty struck the post, but the home side doubled their lead with another unconverted score when sloppy defensive play following some sloppy defensive play that saw three missed tackles.

COBRA got on the scoreboard with a penalty from Williams following a period pressure to leave them trailing 10-3 at half time.

After the break, Bala bagged a third try when driving over close

to the line following some sustained pressure, this score being converted.

But the Llanfair Caereinion side were in no mood to surrender, and scored a try themselves when a good break down the flank by Harry Jukes ended up with second row Scott Bright touching down, with Williams adding a conversion to clinch a bonus point.

It proved a frustrating day for WELSHPOOL whose home clash with Porthmadog in division three (north) was postponed as the North Wales outfit were unable to raise a side. Pool, who have slipped down to fifth in the table, are at at Rhyl on Saturday.

## Welshpool miss big chance to top table

WELSHPOOL missed a chance of taking over at the top of the Spar Mid Wales League division one after slipping to a 2-0 reverse at improving Machynlleth.

With Penrhynoch and Llanrhaeadr both involved in FAW Trophy fourth round action, even a point would have been enough to take the Maesydyre side to the summit.

But they were downed at Mach who reeled off their fourth straight win to climb up to eighth, while Pool remain second, trailing leaders Penrhyn on goal difference.

It was a better day for WATERLOO ROVERS who are up to fifth with a 1-0 win at lowly MONTGOMERY who remain deep in basement danger as a lone goal from Chris Proctor proved enough to separate the sides.

There were plenty of goals with Llanidloes Town crashing 6-0 at Knighton Town after having Josh Evans sent off for his second booking inside the first five minutes.

Conner Bird put the Daffs to flight with a hat-trick, while Adam Farmer, Adie Jones and Mark Jones also found the net.

Bow Street swept aside faltering Llandrindod Wells 4-0 while Aberaeron were 4-2 home victors against Hay St Mary's.

Second placed BERRIEW maintained their promotion push in division two after staging a remarkable fightback when coming from two goals down to topple close rivals Borth United 3-2.

The Rhiewsidars had their chances, but fine goalkeeping and poor finishing saw them frustrated as they found themselves 2-0 down against a team that arrived one place behind.

But they continued to push and turned the game around with goals from Jonny Roberts, the fit-again Karl Sellaerts and Richard Davies.

They still remain five points behind leaders Kerry who got back on track with a 7-1 hammering at bottom club FOUR CROSSES.

Late starters Aberystwyth University maintained their winning ways with a 2-1 home verdict against Presteigne thanks to 25-year efforts in the second half from Tom Spicer and Nathan Lang.

Churchstoke consolidated mid-table with a 4-1 home win over Bont, Builth Wells thumped Bettws 7-0 while Abermule won 3-1 at struggling Penybont to push into the top half of the table.

Fourth bottom DYFFRYN BANW, looking to push away from the basement pack after a poor run of results, saw their home clash with Newbridge postponed.

## Francis nets hat-trick for Reserves

LUKE Francis fired a hat-trick to help Guilsfield Reserves overcome Llanrhaeadr Reserves 6-2 to move up to fourth in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one.

Despite a couple of games in hand, the Guils are still 14 points adrift of leaders Llanfair reserves whose home fixture with Newtown Rovers was postponed.

Llansantffraid Village's prospects are looking up after inflicting a 6-1 defeat on Maesyrhandir to move four points clear in Mitsubishi division two.

In the Welshpool derby at the other end of the table, Waterloo Colts overcame Welshpool reserves 2-1, while Llangedwyn crushed Kerry, Reserves 5-1.

Elsewhere, Forden pumelled struggling Llanfechain 10-0 in the first round of the Robins (Newtown FC) League Cup.

### Results

Montgomeryshire League Honda division one: Guilsfield Res 6 Llanrhaeadr Res 2  
Mitsubishi division two: Llangedwyn 5 Kerry Res 1, Llansantffraid Village 6 Maesyrhandir 1, Welshpool Res 1 Waterloo Colts 2  
J Enrys Morgan Cup, round two: Brecon FC 4 Presteigne 1, Caerswys Reserves 2 Padarn United 3, Dolgellau w/o v Berriew Reserves, Hay St Marys 0 Aberdyfi 1, Llandrindod wells w/o v Aberporth, Llandysul 4 Borth United 1, Llanfair United Reserves v Newtown Rovers (postponed), Llannymyrdel conceded v Newtown Wanderers, Talgarth Town 3 Llanilar 0, Talyston 3 New Quay 3 (Talybont won 5-4 on pens), Waterloo Rovers Reserves 1 Morda Utd 2



# Sport

**Football**  
Round-ups from the  
local leagues – P50

**Rugby**  
Eagles fly high on  
Isle of Man – P51



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## Llanfair stay upbeat after Druids defeat

RHYS Stephens was upbeat despite his Llanfair United side remaining in the Cymru Alliance basement mix following their 4-0 defeat at title challengers Cefn Druids.

"They were the better team, but 4-0 was harsh on our boys," said the Llanfair boss.

"We showed we can compete with one of the better sides in the league as I have no doubt they will be in the top three at the end of the season.

"We played some really good stuff, worked hard and should have had a couple of goals ourselves.

"The performance gives us heart. I couldn't have asked for any more from the lads and, if we play like that from now to the end of the season, then we will be fine.

"We've now got another tough game against leaders Caernarfon on Saturday. We won't be sitting back, we'll be going out to win it."

Defender Ryan Davies is suspended after being sent off for a foul when last man against the Druids.

Lying four points off the top, **GUILDSFIELD** look to keep the pressure on the leaders when they host Holyhead Hotspur on Saturday.

The Guilds go into the game in good spirits after their 6-3 victory at Buckley Town.

Midfielder Jake Cook continued his rich vein of form with another hat-trick, with Aaron Edwards, Jack Richards and Adam Jenkins the other marksmen.

"Offensively we're looking very dangerous. We scored six, but could really have had more after creating a lot of chances," said manager Dan Barton.

They may be finding life a challenge in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance, but **LLANFAIR UNITED** are top of the league's Fair Play Table.

Rhys Stephens' men have 52 points with one red card and 10 bookings in the latest standings, while Powys rivals Guildsfield (54 points) are just behind in third with one more caution.

## Morda on lookout for linesman help

MORDA United FC are on the lookout for a club linesman to join the Montgomeryshire League club.

Anyone interested in this or any other touchline supporting role is invited to contact the team manager, Colin Turner, or club secretary, Rob Drury (01691-652124) for an informal discussion.

Morda, promoted from the second division last term, are enjoying an excellent campaign as they chase the division one title, while they are also still involved in three cup competitions.

## Ellesmere in derby

ELLESMERE RANGERS hope to get the green light to return to action with a big Shropshire derby on Saturday.

Rangers were left inactive last week-end after their Beech Grove clash with Bilston Town Community was postponed. Now Richard Brown's men, 11th in the table, head to Crown Meadow to take on fourth-placed AFC Bridgnorth.

## New Saints all set for screen test

**FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater**

against Port Talbot was that we stood up to them physically, and made sure we weren't bullied.

"We showed that we're not only a good football team, but are prepared to grind out results when we need to. It was not pretty, the surface was not conducive to passing, which allowed them to get close to us.

"But we're not in the business of being pretty, we're in the business of winning football games, and it was a really good win for us.

"They are a big physical side, they got away with some challenges, and were fortunate not to

have more than one player sent off.

"It was the toughest game we've had against them for two or three seasons, and our players knew they had been in a game."

With the majority of his squad now fully fit, the Saints chief has plenty of options as he looks to stretch the winning run to 20 games in all competitions.

The Saints, meanwhile, have loaned new signing Robbie Parry to Welsh Premier rivals Gap Connah's Quay just a month after the midfielder arrived at the club.

"Robbie needs games and also needs to adapt to the mens' game because so far he has played mostly at academy level," said Harrison.

# EAGLES FLYING AS STAR SIGNS



In a huddle – Oswestry captain Andy Smith has some words for his players before the fine win at Ramsey. Picture: Martin Ord.

**OSWESTRY Rugby Club are going great guns as their 'best team for several seasons' challenges for league honours – and now they've signed up former Welsh wizard Shane Williams.**

**RUGBY by John Bridgwater**

five tries as they moved up to second in the table, and just three points adrift of leaders Manchester Medics with a game in hand. Their only defeat this season has come at the hands of the Medics.

"Everything clicked," said spokesman Martin Ord. "Ramsey are a strong side, but we produced a top performance, our best of the season.

"We've one of the best teams that Oswestry has seen, and are fortunate that we have a strong squad of 28, which includes four junior colts who have registered as seniors."

Young full-back Luca Owen-Youens took the man of the match, a player that the club say "has come on leaps and bounds."

The Eagles have no action on Saturday after their clash with Droitwich Spa in the quarter final of the North Mids Shield Plate was postponed, to be played at a later date.

The following week, the focus returns to the league challenge as Oswestry chase their 10th win in 11 outings when they tackle another Isle of Man side, Vagabonds, but this time the encounter

is on home surroundings at Granville Park.

The Eagles were also in the title shake-up this time last season before their challenge faded after the New Year – a scenario they will be keen to avoid this time around.

Across the border, fortunes are not so rosy for COBRA who continue to languish at the foot of the Swalec Welsh League division one (north).

The Meifod men succumbed 17-10 at Bala last week, but at least picked up a losing bonus point to reduce the deficit to three points. They could take heart from another spirited showing, but know there can be no half measures in Saturday's crunch home encounter with lowly rivals Llangefni who lie just two places above in the table.

Meanwhile, COBRA hold their gentlemen's lunch at Llanfair Caeirin sports centre on Sunday, December 6 (12.30), at which this year's guest is rugby coach Sean Holley, a TV Rugby Analyst for BBC Wales' 'Scrum V' Tickets are £25.

**WELSHPOOL**, frustrated by the no-show of opponents Porthmadog last week in division three (north), will hope to get back on the pitch in Saturday's trip to Rhyl, who lie one place above in fourth spot.

## Villagers on road again in FAW Trophy

LLANRHAEDR must hit the road again in FAW Trophy after being drawn away to in-form Flintshire club Greenfield in the last 16.

After their fine 2-1 victory at Brymbo in the fourth round, it promises to be another testing trip if the villagers are to maintain their interest in the competition.

Greenfield lie second in the Lock Stock Welsh Alliance division two, with nine wins and a draw from their 11 outings, and have proved a force on their Old Courtaulds pitch.

They have also been drawn at home in the previous two rounds, defeating Knighton Town 3-2 and Llanberis 4-1 to reach the last 16. The fifth round tie will be played on Saturday, January 23.

The draw has also been unkind to the other two clubs from the Spar Mid Wales League, with high flying Penrhyncoch travelling to Queen's Park from the Wrexham area, while Carno head to Welsh Alliance outfit Trearddur Bay.

Llanrhaeadr now turn their thoughts to another cup competition when they make the trip to Welshpool in the second round of the Spar Mid Wales League Cup on Friday night.

The following day, Waterloo Rovers bid to maintain their good run of form when the host Aberaeron in their second round tie, while struggling Montgomery look for some welcome cheer at home to Dyffryn Banw.

**BERRIEW**, boosted by their last-gasp 3-2 win over Borth, seek to step up their promotion push in division two when they head to lowly **FOUR CROSSES** on Saturday.

The Rhewisers staged a dramatic comeback after being 2-0 down with Jonny Roberts and sub Karl Sellaerts levelling, before Richard Davies pounced for a 94th minute winner to spark wild celebrations.

"What was most pleasing from our perspective was despite being 2-0 down having dominated we did not panic, showed great character and spirit and kept playing," said boss Dave Jones.

"It was another fantastic win."

## Ten-man Oswestry have day to forget

LOOKING to keep the pressure on the West Midlands League division one leaders, Oswestry's hockey players came undone as they crashed 5-1 at Evesham, writes **JOHN BRIDGWATER**.

Making the trip with just 10 men, and some key personnel missing, the visitors were up against it as their Worcester-shire hosts roared into a 4-0 lead by half time.

Oswestry had their chances and did reduce the arrears through Jack Morgan after the interval but, once Evesham netted a fifth, there was no way back.

It was a disappointing outcome as defeat saw Os lose ground on the leading pack, so they will be looking to bounce back at home to lowly Yardley on Saturday.

Oswestry's second team also got in some action, playing in a friendly tournament at Dysynni in Tywyn where they drew 2-2 with Aberystwyth University and lost narrowly 3-2 to the host club Dysynni.

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**STRONGBOW, CARLSBERG**

20 X 440ml

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**£3.99**



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STREET**

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~~£5.79~~

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**£2.89**



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170g  
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CLASSIC  
PUDDINGS**

485g  
~~£10.00~~

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**£5.00**



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CHRISTMAS  
CRACKERS**

450g  
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SAVE £2.00  
**£2.99**



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T & C apply.

Offers end  
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